

Maclean's

Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine

December 13, 1999

**SPECIAL
ISSUE**

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Are Making a
Difference**

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Macleary's

(December 15, 2000) Vol. 13, No. 39

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A Calgary labour dispute has national overtones: Montreal's Express gets help.

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George takes pains in the long struggle over Lord Elgin's celebrated *Marbles*.

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One year after Ottawa vetoed two proposed mergers, Canada's big banks have

printed second profile.

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two-card client

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Two global programs offer high-school students a summer in Copenhagen.

10. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2000; 283: 2689-2694.

Drinks 95
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Ordinary is

Telephone: 100

Senior officers in

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Anthony Wilentz-Smith 17

Elisavinda McMurtry 50

Rice-Lauer 56

Ann Elbert Johnson 68
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Charles Gordon 1969
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The cover of the magazine 'Cover' features four models (three men and one woman) sitting on large stacks of newspapers. They are all dressed in black clothing. The woman is on the left, and the three men are positioned around her. They are all holding and reading newspapers. The background is plain white.

The TV comedy troupe of *The Howl Ho! 23 Minutes*—Mary Walsh, Gog Thorne, Rick Mercer and Cathy Jones—is one of the 12 selections in the annual Montreal Honour Roll. The honorees, chosen from a wide array of fields, are all Canadians who "made a difference."

Special Report

The World Trade Organization may never be the same in the wake of the usually staid protests at its global meetings, and the breakdown of the crucial talks at the eleventh hour.

With a robust economy, retailers are expecting a strong holiday shopping season. And a growing number of Canadians are buying products online.

Spectacular volumes of art and photography grace the holiday season, while Hollywood looks back over the century with tales of war, strife and passion.

From the Editor

A salute to Canadian heroes

Since 1966, *Michael's* annual Honour Roll has recognized Canadians who make a difference. In all, including the 14th edition in the current issue, 183 individuals have been recognized. They have come from all walks of life, from Olympic podiums and the classroom, from boardrooms and food banks. They have explored outer space and the inner mind. They have made us laugh and they have made us weep.

What all of them have shared is a dedication to their calling and a burning desire to excel. They also are shining examples of a nation that has accomplished great things. They put the lie to the lament that Canada is a soulless, former anarchy of problems.

In less than 133 years, we have built a diverse and unique identity. Our writers, artists and performers are worldwide sensations. We have created new areas of wealth, led the way in the provision of universal health care and education, employed millions for domestic contributions before any other country and saved the nation for a new century. We have preserved a sense of caring for those

who are less fortunate. And we can be occasionally very funny. Hollywood's comedy industry is diminished by Canadians—many of them from Ottawa. It takes a sense of humour to live there, and an asset part of those northern climes.

The process of selecting this year's honorees began in January. Current events yielded certain obvious choices,



Bennett (left), Bennett's reader's testimonial

including astronaut John Pyper and Rev. Dale Lang and his wife, Diane, whose courage in the face of the shocking death of their son, Jason, radiated across Canada from Tillam, Ala.

Hundreds of nominations poured in

from readers. Staff members also suggested names. Michael Bennett, the magazine's editorial director of new ventures, oversees the Honour Roll package, as he has done since 1993, while the design was by Art Director Nick Barnett, who has been responsible for the look of all 14 editions.

Contributing Editor Wilma Campbell made the longest trek. He flew from his home in Jakarta to Dili in East Timor via Darwin, Australia, to interview Vancouver's Colin Stewart, a United Nations worker responsible for relations between the UN and local political groups. Photo Editor Peter Bragg took astronaut John Pyper's picture in space; last at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

On Dec. 31, CTV will broadcast a special one-hour program based on the *Michael's* Honour Roll, hosted by Pamela Wallin. The title of the show, appropriately, is *Canadian Heroes*.

Robert Lewis

Newsroom Notes Crunch time

This is the busiest season at *Michael's*. Three annual issues—the universities ranking in November, this week's Honour Roll and, next week, the Year-end Poll and Year in Pictures—combine with larger-than-usual weekly issues to make extraordinary demands on the staff. This year add to that mix a special Jan. 1 anniversary issue—at 256

pages the largest *Michael's* in more than 30 years—and there is every potential for chaos. But order has prevailed, thanks in large measure to the three talented dynamos in the systems and production departments—Editorial Ad-



McClachery, Bennett (center), Power on time

ministrator Sean McClachery, Design Co-ordinator Buffy Bennett and Systems Co-ordinator Joe Power.

Under the direction of Assistant Managing Editor Robert Marshall, their role is to keep the train running on time, making sure all pages meet our print deadlines. Through eight weeks, that means keeping tabs on the equivalent of at least 15 regulations' worth. "You couldn't ask for better people than Buffy and Joe to work with under pressure," says McClachery, the department head. Oh, for that matter, Sean himself

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Christ: a message as relevant as ever

Christian challenge

I don't think that Christianity needs to convert itself, as your excellent cover story suggests ("Jesus at 2000," Nov. 29). Its message was relevant today as it ever was. What we need to do, however, is to recover ways of getting the Christian message to a world that is increasingly visual and increasingly powered by a theater and theater audience quest.

Arthur E. Amos, Potomac, Md.

After many failed attempts to discredit in historical reliability, Christianity still survives. The only reason it survives is because Jesus does not have to be reinvented. And the only reason the church as an institution has to be rein-

vented is because of its tendency to be an unreliable representation of Christ's love and compassion. Since truth is just as much sought as taught, those churches that demonstrate a genuine authenticity, integrity and consistency in living out the gospel of good news will have no trouble meeting the new millennium. They will be Christlike to the poor, the oppressed, the broken and the wounded. They will focus on the community rather than institutions, on spiritual formation rather than religious traditionalism, and on personal and global transformation rather than self-protection. After ministering more than 25 years as an evangelical pastor, I spend my ministry days now working with those with mental illness, specifically those with schizophrenia, advocating, as Jesus would, to abolish the stigma and discrimination of those living with this biochemical brain disease—to offer them a future with hope. Perhaps I have found the church outside the church.

Chris Karamanolis, Winnipeg Executive Director, Manitoba Schizophrenia Society, Winnipeg.

It is refreshing to know that such a distinguished magazine as *Maclean's* took the time to visit those involved in evangelical churches in Canada. At times, we evangelical Christians feel like lepers among the more liberal mainstream. It feels good to have an occasional article written that shows the church is alive and well, as well as needed and expected to be entering the 21st century.

Dianne B. Hodder, Port Perry, Ont.

Christianity would not have to reinvent itself if prayers were actually answered once in a while. In any way, dear people become atheist!

John Grizzle, Mississauga, Ont.

Kids out of control

I read with great interest "Death of a dream" (Canada, Nov. 29) about the killing of Toronto high-school student Diogen Baranovskii. You try to identify the reasons why some youths are troubled, mentioning working parents, violent video games and movies, and so on, but you overlook the main reason: "Today's kids are out of control because, in the name of children's rights, parents and teachers have effectively been stripped of their authority. It is not that children are disinclined by nature, as they did, centuries were equally violent and firearms far more freely available, and yet we were not inspired by those conditions to kill our parents, teachers or classmates. As for youth gangs, once again you avoid coming to terms with the real issue. Most gangs are organized along ethnic lines. Their appearance in our society, like the bad behaviour of this generation, is the inevitable consequence of naive public policy.

Robert Smith, Ottawa

Green memory

Tom Green was a substitute teacher's worst nightmare ("Shocking Green," *Entertainment*, Nov. 29). He was a student I remembered very well among the sea of faces 90 years ago at Otawa, Colorado High School. Much to my chagrin,

he naturally found the classroom was an ideal training ground to fine-tune his skills as "unsubmissive" comedian. It was obvious that even as a teenager, he was a performer, and I congratulate him for taking his talent to an appreciative public.

Laurel M. Heide, Proctor, N.D.

Clarification

In the Dec. 6, 1999, issue of *Maclean's*, a photo credit was inadvertently omitted. The page 67 photo of Norman Jewison and Robin (Harrison) Carter was taken at Florida Tech Toronto boxing club, but the location was not mentioned in the credit.

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The Mail

Aussie referendum

While Queen Elizabeth II was handing the World Rugby Cup to the Australian captain in Cardiff, Wales, the government of Australia was giving the royal finger to the Australian people in its heads we win, take your love referendum. The Aussies turned down the government's referendum proposal ("Australian vote to keep the Queen," *World News*, Nov. 15), which intended to substitute Parliament for the people as the decision of the new president. What the Aussies wanted is to elect their own president. They didn't vote to keep the Queen, they voted against a parliamentary dictatorship.

John Kelly, Toronto

Child poverty

Reading the excerpt from Mel Hargrove's latest book, *Play the First or Feed the Kids* ("When kids go hungry," Nov. 15), in the same issue as the ranking of Canadian universities struck me as ironic. A university education was never cheap, now it's becoming a luxury, so who'll get to go in 2006-plus? Maybe kids from middle-income families. Certainly not those Hargrove writes about. With the Yale note upon us, the excerpt brought to mind Charles Dickens's novel *A Christmas Carol*. Encouraging the Spirit of Christmas Present, Scrooge asks if the two children under his cloak belong to the spirit. "They are Marley," it replies. "This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want. Beware them both, and all of their degree, but most of all beware this boy." The warning is still valid. While I don't suggest a lack of education in itself fosters crime, to close schools, ignorance, has helped spawn some of the atrocities of this century, and both are in part offshoots of want. Ten years ago, world leaders held a summit on child poverty, pledging to solve it by the end of this century. We're still far from the mark. Dickens would probably grade our efforts C-minus.

Erlyn Eppson, Halifax



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ACQUA DI GIÒ



GIORGIO ARMANI

The Mail

David Keene is on the true face of Christianity. And he's on new ground in highlighting what will happen. "I have declared war on [Christianity]," and the magazine's threat to Christianity is in the Middle East. We hope that the will serve to enlighten all North Americans—crisis-makers necessary to justify round-the-clock bombing and more restrictive and punitive economic measures against Muslim nations. Perhaps/And on some at the 21st-century's crest for a new crusade echoing Pope Urban II's words of about 1,000 years ago: "Take the road to the Holy Sepulchre, more that lead from a dreadful war."

Wanda Wilkerson, National Vice-Chairwoman
The Canadian Islamic Congress,
Waterloo, Ont.

As a Canadian originally from Nassau in Israel, I would like to assure you that only ignorance does not recognize that Nassau is a city of peace and goodwill. Barbara Amiel's article states that "the Netanyahu government played up to the Muslims, praising them, the mosque and happy far voice." Then at the end of her article, she twists the facts and claims that "the only thing that seems clear is that the Jews are between a rock and a hard place." How could this make sense, in any logical, rational person? And then to portray the magazine as the victim. Like Swiss cheese, her article is full of holes.

Elaine Parsh, Dundas, Ont.

'Church of Bill Reid'

To the religious mind, nothing is more hated than an uncomfortable truth that explodes a religious myth. Thus, we see the church of Bill Reid again in high daylight over your Oct. 18 cover story, "Trade secrets." In the Nov. 29 edition, Haida elder Layman White reacts to the disclosure, perhaps clear that Reid is largely the victim of a media bias against natives ("Bill Reid's legacy," The Mail). Haida artist Jim Hart equates Reid with God. Get over yourselves, people. Michael's meticulous research showed Reid to be a mercenary,

exploitative salesman, not the all-virtuous Haida matriarch that you created. Preserve the myth if you want, but do so in all a fervor and keep it so yourself. Michael does not deserve to be vilified for doing good journalism.

Ging Follon, New Westminster, B.C.

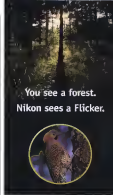
Looking for balance

The table of contents of the Nov. 22 issue of Maclean's strikingly demonstrated the magazine's unfortunate choice in devoting yet another cover story to a celebrity—Wayne Gretzky ("Wayne's new world")—while giving a smaller amount of space to the tragic story of the appallingly high youth suicide rate in least conspicuous across Canada ("The tragedy of Andrew Rock," Canada). Surely we can recognize that it is more important to address the problems faced by the vast people rather than being obsessed with the lives of the rich and famous. Perhaps by doing so, we could find a way to give hope to children like Andrew Black, as that parents such as Nigam Ashraf would not have to face the tragic news that their children have taken their own lives.

Ruth Chelley, Inverness, N.B.

Where would Wayne Gretzky be today if he had been born a female? Not only would there have been no framework to systematically advance him through the sport to reach the Hall of Fame, but would his dad have been as avid about building the hockey rink in the backyard and coaching him to stardom if he were a girl? If Wayne is serious about wanting to make an even more significant contribution to hockey, it would behoove him to first understand how difficult it is for women to be passionate about the sport when the institutional machinery is in its infancy. In his daughter Pauline's lifetime could she achieve the fame and fortune her dad has enjoyed if she (hypothetically) wanted nothing more than to play professional women's hockey? It's time to balance the scorecard and Wayne is capable of doing it.

Natasha Knight, London, Ont.



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Notes

Edited by D'Arcy Jenish

The Globe loses a big name

When widely esteemed journalist Robert Fulford completes his regular column on cultural issues this week, there will be one difference: he will be in the *National Post* instead of *The Globe and Mail*. The 67-year-old Fulford, a columnist at the *Globe* for six years, wrote his last effort on Nov. 30—then affirmed the paper of his departure. Fulford cited several reasons—and money was not among them. “My column was dying of atrophy,” he said. “I was hidden away in its display and changes were made to correct several errors without consulting me.” While Fulford would not say so, a senior *Globe* staffer and the paper's new management, led by editor-in-chief Richard Adair, a British import, and several other First Steps executives, “badly” a clue of his reputation or importance. “For his part, Fulford and he met Adair once and “he was quite pleasant.”

The move is seen as a coup for the *Post*—which is a red-hot-rack competitor with the *Globe* after little more



Fulford at home: a column dying of atrophy

than a year of operation. A recent survey by the independent NADbank organization put *Globe* weekly readership at 345,000, while the *Post* had 310,000. That puts the slowly rising scaffolding between executives of the two papers. Last month, Conrad Black, chairman of Southern Inc., which owns the *Post*, and Philip Conover, publisher of the *Post*, Inc.-owned *Globe*, took their differences to the pages of *Editor & Publisher*, a U.S. publishing trade magazine. Conover, a British native, suggested much of the *Post*'s circulation is made up of guesswork, and said he thinks the NADbank figures are inaccurate. Black and Conover should “think up on his Grade 3 arithmetic,” adding that his behaviour is “a baroque and belligerent for the Canadian psychology.” A fondness for rough talk may be all the two agree on.

Best-Sellers

Fiction	NONFICTION
1. A BIRD IN THE HAND , Anne Ransford (1)	1. The Book of David (2)
2. THE NEW YORKER , Anne Ransford (1)	2. From Robert to Robert , Robert Ransford (1)
3. THE NEW YORKER , Anne Ransford (1)	3. When in the World , Robert Ransford (1)
4. THE NEW YORKER , Anne Ransford (1)	4. When in the World , Robert Ransford (1)
5. THE NEW YORKER , Anne Ransford (1)	5. When in the World , Robert Ransford (1)
6. THE NEW YORKER , Anne Ransford (1)	6. When in the World , Robert Ransford (1)
7. THE NEW YORKER , Anne Ransford (1)	7. When in the World , Robert Ransford (1)
8. THE NEW YORKER , Anne Ransford (1)	8. When in the World , Robert Ransford (1)
9. THE NEW YORKER , Anne Ransford (1)	9. When in the World , Robert Ransford (1)
10. THE NEW YORKER , Anne Ransford (1)	10. When in the World , Robert Ransford (1)

11 Weeks at No. 1 Compiled by Brian Jensen

Bibliomaniacs

The last far books a one of humanity's best-known obsessions, if only because those who suffer from it write about it a lot. In *A Passion for Books* (Random House), Harold Robinson and Rob Kaplan have collected 60 essays and stories from the likes of Robertson Davies. The pieces range from hilarious disquisitions of those who become—but do not return—precious volumes, to a moving 1910 essay by George Hamilton Nash on the subject he found in books after the sudden death of his only son.



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*Lawyer Frederic
Rind about the
science police*

Opening Notes

Rounding up suspects for their DNA

The science of DNA has done much for police work. With a drop of blood or a single hair is enough genetic material to convict a killer. But some lawyers are raising concerns about whether police are becoming too zealous in the pursuit of DNA—and whether citizens' rights may get trampled. In two recent murder cases—one in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., and the other in Port Alberni, B.C.—officers conducted mass DNA screenings, adding hundreds of possible suspects to consent to testing. While this practice is legal and saves time, Ricardo Federico, a Toronto lawyer and forensic DNA scientist, says it may go too far. He worries about the fling of genetic profiles and whether citizens realize what they are volunteering.

In the Sault Ste. Marie case, a man stabbed Renee Sawney to death in January, 1996, in her job as an adult-video store

Tell-tale. Sault Ste. Marie Police have taken DNA from more than 900 possible suspects, and testing continues. Sgt. Leo Thibault says the consent form clearly states that a person can refuse the test, can consult a lawyer and that the sample will be destroyed after the investigation. The Port Alberni RCMP profiled the DNA of 350 possible suspects while investigating the 1996 sexual assault and murder of 11-year-old Jessica Stairs. A man has been arrested, but the Mountain town says whether he was among the said.

Toronto lawyer James Lockyer questions what happens when a suspect refuses to give a sample. "That's where harassment might begin, if police don't take us for an answer." Besides, adds Frederic "Is this what we want, having the science police knocking on everybody's door?"

Pop Movies

1. <i>Mr. Bean</i> (G) (7)	\$1,077,548
2. <i>The World Is Not Enough</i> (PG-13)	\$1,033,375
3. <i>Get of Rage</i> (PG-13)	\$1,030,826
4. <i>Enemy Within</i> (PG-13)	\$1,784,158
5. <i>Twister</i> (PG)	\$767,475
6. <i>The Iron Giant</i> (G)	\$241,110
7. <i>Boys n the Girls</i> (PG)	\$205,719
8. <i>The Mummy</i> (PG-13)	\$105,400
9. <i>The Remington</i> (PG)	\$100,100
10. <i>Apprentice Bill</i> (PG)	\$100,100

Top movies in Canada, ranked according to box office receipts during the seven days ending on Dec. 2. (On location: numbers of screens/weeks showing.)
Source: Entertainment Weekly

Best dressed

And this year's Academy Award for costume design goes to... Stuart Little, the second release who stars in the movie of the same name. Stuart Little sports stylish sweaters, Gucci khakis and plaid pyjamas. Michael J. Fox is the voice of Stuart in this adaptation of the classic about a mouse stooped by a human family.



Passages

Convicted: Stephen Rind, 49, author, admitted heroin addict and husband of West Coast poet Susan Magsamen, of suspected murder of a police officer after a beached bank robbery and high-speed chase on June 9 in Victoria. Rind, who will be sentenced Dec. 28, had earlier pleaded guilty to armed robbery, unlawful confinement and several firearms offences. After sentencing hearing last week, one character witness described him as a "man of one tragedy."



Charged: Former Nova Scotia premier Gerald Regan, 71, with eight counts of indecent assault after the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal overturned a lower court decision to say those charges, in Halifax. A year ago, Regan was found not guilty of sexually assaulting three other women. Regan lawyers are seeking leave to appeal last week's decision to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Appointed: Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson, 38—banned for life from amateur competition after the positive drug test last month—is personal trainer to upcoming soccer player Mark Gashoff, 25, son of Libyan leader Col. Muammar Gadhafi.

Died: Bill Pott, 71, who is remembered for bringing the 1988 Winter Olympic Games to Calgary, of Lou Gehrig's disease, in Calgary. Pott was sometimes called Mr. Calgary for his contributions to civic projects such as the Saddledome, home of the Calgary Flames.

Woes: By Beersford, Ont.'s Jimmy MacNeil, 38, the role of Zamboni Driver of the Year, defining Detroit's Al Sabado by 177,560 votes to 97,265 and earning the right to drive at the NHL all-star game in Toronto on Feb. 6.

Granted: To heavyweight boxer Trevor Berbick, 49, permission by the Immigration and Refugee Board to stay in Canada, despite convictions for assault and other offences.



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Opening Notes

Explorer

Giving them some real-time religion

In a marriage of the ancient and contemporary, religious Web sites have been gaining in number and popularity on the Internet. These sites are particularly worth a look in a month filled with holidays of many denominations. Last week, Jews began celebrating Hanukkah in honor of the rededication, more than 2,000 years ago, of the Second Temple of Jerusalem, after it was defiled on the orders of a Syrian king. On Dec. 8, Muslims start a month-long fast to observe Ramadan, which marks God's revelation to Muhammad in the form of the Quran. Following it is a selection of religious sites.

www.kosovale.com Created by Seattle-based ISI, Interactive Inc., this site has 32,000 Israelis (not once year-round). It includes the dates and places of the highly popular Mexican event—Las Posadas—a series of candlelit parades and pageants held during the week before Christmas, featuring re-creations of Joseph and Mary's search for a room in Bethlehem.

www.musee-guilde.com Christmas carols in Canada and France are featured on this site, developed by France's ministry of culture and Heritage Canada. Detailed histories of holiday practices in the two countries are provided, including the traditions of anglophones and francophones in Canada. For example, gift-giving, encouraged by newspaper advertisements, became popular in English Canada in the 1870s, while it caught on with French-Canadians in the 1930s because of the popularity of "The Noel."

www.apedevotees.net/christmas For those who lament the commercialization of Christmas, this site bluntly notes that Santa and Frosty the Snowman are "unwelcome." Assembled by Rob and Colleen Miller, a Lanesville, N.J., couple who run a Christmas Internet company, the



The Nativity: a Hanukkah site depicts worship for the Jewish spiritual side

site provides links to dozens of other sites with a religious approach to Dec. 25.

www.cashtime.com/december.htm This site has recipes and trivia for celebratory dishes that followers of different faiths prepare. Users can learn that Israelis eat injera, injera doughnuts, during Hanukkah, while American Jews favour pastiches called dachas, or that four different carp dishes make up a traditional Czech Christmas meal. The site also explains that the small meal eaten after sunset during Ramadan is called an iftar.

www.holidays.net The meaning of religious celebrations is the focus at this address. The site recounts, for instance, that Jews light eight candles on a menorah during Hanukkah to symbolize the miracle of the burning oil, when a single day's supply of oil kept the rededicated temple of Jerusalem lit for eight days. Ramadan pages explain that Muslims abstain from food, drink, smoking and sex during the daylight hours of a month-long fast to demonstrate their faith. A fast follows the period of abstaining.

www.123greetings.com/religion Religious greetings can be exchanged by using e-cards from this site. Besides Christmas greetings, users can wish Buddhists to "achieve the perfect balance in life," Hindus to "seek the light within thyself," while Muslims can say "may God keep you in peace"—sentiments good all year round.

Susan Oh

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Backstage



Anthony Wilson-Smith

Why Chrétien is right

For one reason why the federal Liberals are preparing draft legislation setting new referendum rules, consider the experience of John Rae in 1995. Rae, the Montreal businessman who is Jean Chrétien's most trusted adviser, sat through an endless series of focus groups before and during the Quebec referendum campaign. In them, some respondents said they planned to vote 'Yes' because they would save on taxes by having one government instead of two. Others, who called themselves 'frustrateds', planned to vote 'Yes'—because they didn't believe Lucien Bouchard really meant to make Quebec independent, no matter what he said publicly. Others insisted repeatedly that Quebec pays more into the federation than it receives in return, even though that is demonstrably not so. It was maddening for No side advisers, who watched quietly from behind two-way mirrors. Later, when he could laugh about it, Rae said he felt like the side character on the *Murphy Brown* sitcom, who became so annoyed at a focus group that she stormed into the room to tell them off.

That's a measure of the frustration on the federal side. Yet a sobering view of the same voter block, consider what Jacques Parizeau once privately said. The former premier, according to author and journalist Graham Fraser, observed to friends that "we are elected by idiots." In Quebec, 40 per cent are separatists and 40 per cent are federalists—and 20 per cent don't know who is prime minister of Canada. And that 20 per cent makes and breaks governments.

They may not have expressed it the same way, but both men share the same idea: life is so wrong to drink the fate of a country—as countries may be decided by people who don't even realize they're doing so. That's precisely the case when it comes to determining the future of Quebec, within or without Canada. The evidence is not just anecdotal: by one margin, unpublished federally sponsored poll, 50 per cent of Quebecers believed Quebec would still be a province after a 'Yes' vote. 69 per cent thought they could keep their Canadian passports, and 26 per cent said they could still send MTV to Ottawa. It's why the 'Yes' side featured thrashings of a Canadian bison on their ad material in the 1995 campaign—to give voters the impression that one of Canada's most visible symbols would remain down even if they voted 'Yes'. (Ditto the assurance to voters that they could keep their Canadian passports. It's why the 'Yes' side Quebecois has, in both referendums, offered voters the prospect of continued links with the rest of Canada. At the height of nationalist campaigns in Quebec following the 1990 collapse of the Meech Lake accord, no poll showed majority support for outright independence.

It's no mystery why sovereigntists are chased off by Chrétien's insistence that the rest of Canada would only negotiate with Quebec in the event of a clear question supported by a clear majority. Under those terms, sovereigntists almost certainly couldn't win. What's more baffling is the opposition from other prominent federalists—ranging from Jean Charest to Alicia McDonough to Joe Clark to Preston Manning—to Chrétien's plans. Their reason on the face only—significant arguments seems to be that such support for sovereignty stalling, it's better to let sleeping dogs lie.

That argument belongs to retired Talleyrand's famous remark about the Bourbon kings of France: "They have learned nothing, and forgive us nothing." The history of Quebec over the last quarter century is filled with PQ blunders—followed by irremediable rebounds. In the 1973 election, the PQ won only six of 110 national assembly seats; three years later, it won power. In 1984, in the aftermath of the PQ's referendum defeat, the victory of Claude Ryan's Liberals in the next election was considered so certain that newspaper articles routinely called Ryan "the premier-in-waiting." Instead, the PQ won a majority. Similarly, it ousted Charest's Liberals badly in the run-up to the 1998 election, but won another majority. And the most hilarious example: when the 1995 campaign began, the No side laid its polls against from a slew of seven percentage points to a high of 10. Pierre Duvault, a prominent social-scientist and sociologist, crunched the numbers and concluded the 'Yes' side was doomed. It came within half a percentage point of winning.

Few people deny the right of Quebecers to determine their destiny—although after two such efforts in 1980 and 1995, it's fair to wonder if it should take more than one lit majority to overcome the No side's 3-0 lead. But the real problem is the hope, persistent to everyone, that after Chrétien would agree to a "partnership" just because many Quebecers wish it. Such an offer requires a response, and the federal government is best placed to provide that. And it's best to do so when times are calm, as now. These opponents who criticize Chrétien for not focusing on the future are, ironically, interested when he does precisely that. And the same constraints don't apply to Lucien Bouchard, who seemed suddenly broke creation from other politicians after he raised that Chrétien's plans might drive Quebec to voluntarily declare independence. With Bouchard running the equivalent of a personal focus group on sovereignty, Chrétien is correct in deciding a prime minister must do more than sit behind two-way glass, listening and silently learning.

Whatever business you're in, you probably face the same types of knowledge management challenges that Foster Parents Plan of Canada did. Faced with fierce competition for funding sources, they needed a more efficient way to manage their business information in order to attract prospective donors, manage contributors and co-ordinate the sponsorship of children.

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Rattled in Seattle

Torn by deep internal conflicts and massive street protests, a crucial World Trade Organization meeting ends in failure

By Jennifer Hunter in Seattle

It was a remarkable, and perhaps prophetic, closing chapter to the millennium. For four intense days last week, the city of Seattle was under siege: the air burned by the acrid scent of tear gas and pepper spray, the ramshackle streets patrolled by hundreds of police in black riot gear, the air echoing with the rhythmic drums of peaceful protesters and the ugly sound of vandals smashing windows. Thousands of marchers were choked by gas and bruised by rubber bullets; almost 600 were arrested. Just before U.S. President Bill Clinton arrived in the city last Tuesday, authorities declared a civil emergency, called in the National Guard and imposed a daily curfew covering 37 square kilometers of the downtown core from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. in Police threatened to arrest anyone not on legitimate business, and cleared the streets by firing tear-gas canisters of riot gas. Yet perhaps the oddest aspect of the surreal strife in the historic city of Starbucks and Microsoft was the protesters' anger: the dramatic meetings of a once-obscure international trade grouping.

Newly five years ago, when the 135-member World Trade Organization was formed, such scenes would have been unthinkable. For most people, the words global trade

brought a thick glass to the eyes. The consensus at Seattle of much-coated, wire-meshed trade mandarins from around the world was intended to quietly set the agenda for the new Millennium Round of trade talks beginning in early 2000. Instead, it turned into a brawl, both outside—and inside. At the end, essentially, it was not the protesters that caused the meeting to break up in disorder. Deep-seated conflicts among the delegates themselves over the acute but explosive details of agriculture policy, "non-dumping" tariffs, trade in services, and environmental and labor standards led to a collapse in the talks. After arguing late into the first night, negotiators left Seattle on Saturday with no agenda, no final declaration and no date for a new meeting. Demonstrations outside were rampant. "It's the beginning of the end for the WTO," they shouted to the throngs of drunks.

Well, hardly. The trade talks will eventually pick up again in Geneva, and the rough international bargaining will begin anew. Yet the ruckus in the streets, dubbed "The Battle in Seattle," insured that any further movement towards trade liberalization will be scrutinized by the public in a way it has never been before. The WTO, with its binding rules and decisions made in secret, may well have to change its methods, something Clinton alluded to in a speech. "A lot of people who are peacefully protesting here in the best American tradition are protesting in part because the interests they represent have never been allowed inside the deliberations of the world trading system." Opposition to the secret workings of the WTO has brought together farmers and human-rights advocates, environmentalists and labor organizations, Muslims and socialists. "The energy that has coalesced in Seattle will move around the world," U.S. consumer advocate Ralph Nader jubilantly told 2,000 riling protesters on Thursday.

It was apparent weeks ago that something significant and shattering was going to happen in Seattle. Protesters from hundreds of grassroots organizations made no secret of their intention to converge on the city to shut down the WTO

Demonstrators look on as downtown windows police had smashed during Vancouver's 1994 hockey riot to prepare



Police fire pepper spray and police as they attempt to clear a road in the conference; protesters made no secret of their plans

meetings. They each had their own concrete, some about poor labor conditions in developing countries, some about the environment, some about genetically engineered food, many about the spreading power of multinational corporations. The protesters claimed that since the WTO is able to make binding trade decisions in an atmosphere of secrecy—such as ruling against France's desire to ban North American hormone-laced beef or Canada's attempt to force up domestic magazines—it has become a de facto world government with little accountability. Grassroots dissenters, such as the San Francisco-based Rafta Society, spread the message about the WTO on local Seattle campuses, and held workshops on civil disobedience.

More orthodox groups such as the Canadian Labour Congress and the nationalized Council of Canadians made plans to participate in an organized union march led by the AFL-CIO, not to reject the idea of global trade but to try to reform it. They had been aroused by their ability three years ago to route public concern over the proposed Multilateral Agreement on Investment, ensuring its death. "People are concerned that the WTO is an antidemocratic organization," explained Steve Staples, a Vancouver organizer with the COC who helped bring 41 hundred Canadians from Vancouver to join the labor march. "The powers are so far-reaching over governments that we are losing our ability to control the society we want being undermined." That sense of the WTO as a malevolent unseen hand in modern life was shared by

many of the 50,000 protesters who descended on Seattle. Just before dawn last Tuesday, a crowd of several thousand, including guests former Terry Boehm of Alaska, Sask., arrived at Victor Steinbock Park just north of Seattle's Pike Place Market to begin a march to the WTO convention site. "The WTO is allowing corporations to operate with greater impunity, and governments are giving up their ability to regulate," Boehm said, explaining why he joined in. "A lot of sorts of unpleasant effects for farmers and Third World countries." The riots were gentle and the mood was festive. Some people were dressed in arca turtle costumes to express dismay about a WTO ruling that outlawed U.S. efforts to protect the species. There were marches carrying cardboard pepper and a lot of banners: "China out of Tibet," for instance, a reference to Chinese inspectors' inclusion in the WTO.

The crowd marched southeast towards the Seattle Convention Center where the WTO meetings were taking place. By 9:30 a.m., they had successfully blocked most of the streets surrounding the centre, preventing delegates from getting to the meeting, pushing them as tired and blocking their path. Delegates of the WTO realized they would have to delay the opening session. Some delegates tried to maintain good humor as they were being held hostage by the crowd. Hase Chun from Taiwan sensibly told protesters in halting English that "free expression is good." The finance minister of the Bahamas, William Allen, refused to leave the crowd and hid behind the glass door of his hotel. "It's not



'There is a real backlash against globalization,' said marcher and former B.C. premier Glen Clark

sure I understood these protests," he said. "World trade expands jobs and raises higher incomes. They would benefit from that." Canada's trade ministers, Pierre Pettigrew, had to scale a small wall and clamber over flower pots to get into the convention centre. Ottawa's ambassador to the Geneva-based WTO, Sergio Marchi, did not make it into the building at all.

Police believed they had prepared for the protests—even watching film footage of the 1994 Stanley Cup riot in Vancouver as a guide—but they were not successful that morning in keeping protesters at bay and protecting WTO delegates. "We've won 'The Battle in Seattle,'" gloated protester Ted Blankin of Portland, Ore.

Around 10:30 a.m. on Pike Street at Sixth Avenue, where the protesters had placed a giant nylon dolphin across the street, police began to take their first concrete action, sending up volleys of pepper spray and tear gas. Soon, the air over the downtown was filled with noxious fumes. The demonstrators had their own team of medics, who poured water into eyes and dislodged fumes with gusts. Meanwhile, at the Seattle Center in the north of the city, organized labour, human-rights groups, environmentalists and other non-governmental agencies gathered for the AFL-CIO march. The COC's Masade Bellow was there, as was Canadian Labour Congress president Ken Gonsky. "We should expand trade," he told Masade, "but only if it improves the life and living standards of people around the world." In the crowd, too, was former B.C. premier Glen Clark, who was attending sessions sponsored by Microsoft and Boeing. "There is a real backlash against globalization," Clark said. "People are starting to



Confrontation near Clinton's hotel, criticism of police tactics

question the globalization at the altar of the free market." Just behind Clark was an oversized green cardboard sign with a message from Greenpeace: "Protect Safe Trade."

The WTO march, 34,000 strong, headed downtown. Some of the walkers ended up joining the greenpeace protesters and for some time the scene in the inner city was less tense. But vandals—wearing black and calling themselves anarchists—began to operate among the crowd. The Nike Town store was ransacked by graffiti and three windows were smashed. Protesters tried to stop the vandals while maintaining their vigil around the convention centre, but the police continued to gas the crowd. "There was a small group breaking the law, but most of us out here are regular people with social consciences who are peacefully protesting," said Denis Mayhew, a member of the Direct Action Network. "The police displayed excessive force."

By Wednesday, authorities had declared a civil emergency. An entire block settled on the downtown as police stopped people, requested credentials and blocked roads, particularly

around the Winton Hotel where Clinton was staying. "The police are going to be the ones in charge," said King County Sheriff Dave Kitchner, "not the demonstrators." Ten people unconnected with the protests were being arrested, including Vancouver radio reporter Ted Field and Victor Menon of the International Forum on Globalization, a San Francisco think-tank, who was attending WTO meetings. Seattle resembled Beirut during its violent on-again, off-again days. National Guard troops everywhere, dressed in camouflage and armed with machineguns, and few pedestrians despite the normally busy Christmas season.

Still, delegates were able to slip safely into the convention centre and begin the process of shuffling through a series of divisive issues: agricultural subsidies, biotechnology, and the feeling on the part of developing countries that they had not received promised benefits after the last round of trade talks in 1994 Uruguay Round. "This is like an enormous poker game," explained David Rumsfeld, president of the Washington-based International Institute for Sustainable Development, a

nonprofit group concerned with environmental, social and economic issues. "Nobody is going to give into anything unless it's all on the table and you can see what kind of deal you can get."

But in the end, the poker game had to be settled. At 9:00 p.m. on Friday, over three hours past the deadline they had set, delegates concluded failure. Developing nation representatives from Africa and the Caribbean left the meeting in a huff, mood, saying they had been bullied by U.S. officials who were pushing for internationally recognized labour standards and more openness in WTO deliberations. They saw the United States demand for better wages and conditions as disguised protectionism, designed to blunt their competitive advantage of lower labour costs. The issue had intensified when Clinton went beyond the U.S. position and de-

Supporting farmers

A key issue at the WTO was the amount of financial help major agricultural countries give their farmers. Canada complains that the European Union and the United States provide far more than Ottawa does.

These figures show how much of the total value of key farm products is made up of government subsidies and price supports.

	Wheat	Beef	Milk	Eggs
Canada	9%	6%	16%	24%
United States	33%	4%	61%	3%
European Union	16%	32%	37%	4%

rectly supported sanctions against WTO members who violate International Labour Organization rules. "He threw a bomb into the discussions," Sylvia Ostry, a research fellow with the Centre for International Studies at the University of Toronto, told *Montreal TV*. "His shown incredible arrogance." Canada was much less adamant about imposing such standards.

European delegates also felt falling angry at U.S. attempts to strong-arm them into severly cutting agricultural subsidies, which they believe protect farmers and rural communi-

ties. "The Americans tried to impose their agenda on the Europeans and the Japanese and it was that pressure that made the talks collapse," said Rumsfeld. He believes in retrospect that the talks—which had no agenda from the outset due to earlier disagreements—were bound to fail. "There was a man with the U.S. trying to boss everybody around, the Europeans divided and the developing countries fed up with the way the big guys operated, holding secret meetings and making deals on the side," he said. Trade Minister Pettigrew, however, said he remains optimistic.

"This is not a failure. We made progress. These progress are locked in. They will be the basis for further work."

Thursday morning, after Clinton left, the city calmed somewhat and volunteers began to clean up debris and wash graffiti from buildings. Rumsfeld hoped the protests would not derail continuing efforts towards trade liberalization. "I fear a backlash from ordinary citizens," he said. "High trade barriers are what led to the Great Depression." Other Canadian non-governmental organizations went to the focus on the street but took criticism away from such issues as human rights, social programs and labour protection. "Most of us here say we are in favour of expanded trade, but we're not in favour of a set of rules to help transnational corporations," said Wamun Alimard, a former Liberal cabinet minister. Almost everyone, however, believed the week had heightened public awareness of the issues at stake. "This has been a key moment," said Peter Bloyer, executive director of the Council of Canadians. "The fact that it's at the end of the millennium gives it a sense of political momentum." Undoubtedly, The Battle in Seattle will remain in the public consciousness long after the sting of tear gas has faded away. □



Progress (left) with WTO director-general Michael Moore, but losses

THE WTO FILE

WHAT IS IT? Based in Geneva, the World Trade Organization was first proposed by then-Canadian Trade Minister John Crosbie in April, 1980, and following extensive international negotiations, came into being on Jan. 1, 1995, as a more powerful successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The original pact, entered in 1947 as a result to the Bretton Woods agreement that created the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, was designed to reduce international trade barriers. Since then, total global trade in goods has jumped to \$5.5 trillion from \$36 billion, and the WTO's 22,500 pages of agreements regulate commerce among 135 countries.

HOW IT WORKS: A key difference between the GATT system and the WTO is that the new organization decides trade disputes with mandatory rulings, while GATT decisions could be blocked, since they required the consent of all members. The guiding principle for WTO accords is so-called national treatment, which requires member nations to regulate imported goods in the same way as domestic goods. The types of countries covered have been steadily expanded in the eight rounds of negotiations since the formation of GATT, including the so-called Uruguay Round, which agreed to form the WTO. Last week's meeting in Seattle failed to stem up a ninth round, but sooner or later, negotiators will return to issues such as agriculture and trade in services, which the Uruguay Round had already placed on the table.

TRADE FLASH POINTS: WTO rulings have forced countries to change domestic laws, including environmental measures in the United States and legislation designed to protect culture in Canada. Many demonstrators in Seattle focused on how a WTO ruling overruled a U.S. ban on the sale of Asian shrimp whose catch endangers sea turtles. Washington is now adopting new rules. Canadian publishers are still anxious the impact of the year's Canada-U.S. magazine agreement made in the wake of a WTO ruling ending long-standing restrictions on U.S. publications entering the Canadian advertising market. The WTO's defenders, however, argue that the gains from free trade around the world far outweigh the losses—especially in a high-exporting nation like Canada.



Picket challenge line crosses (left) publisher Guyton (below) behind the struggle, a clash of ideologies spawned tensions in the newsroom

Canada

Endurance Test

A labour dispute at the Calgary Herald is taking on coast-to-coast overtones

By Brian Bergman

Dressed in casual black slacks and a cozy brown sweater, the grey-haired, bespectacled Andy Marshall doesn't exactly look like a union firebrand. And as he sat last week in the Calgary Herald's sparsely strike headquarters, he didn't really sound like one either. Boasting a peppy file bag, Marshall, 57, was at times barely audible—then again, he given the impression of a man who rarely raises his voice. Marshall spent more than 15 years covering business, education and the environment for the Herald. What he never thought he'd be doing is leading a strike against his employer. When Marshall first became involved a year and a half ago in the drive to certify newsroom employees, he considered the effort a "pipe dream." What he describes as the "modestly conservative people" who serve for the 116-

year-old Herald had little appetite for union politics. Even now, more than four weeks into the walkout, one of the common inside Marshall hears is that the strikers are no politicos for their own good. Public relations consultants, he says, told them they really could do enough to get a bit.

Apparent as well as understanding, Marshall is at the centre of an increasingly noisy labour dispute that is gathering national attention. The 150,000-member Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada, which won the right to represent Herald newsroom staff last year, is pitting the strike as a long-term battle against a long-time ideological foe, Conrad Black and his Toronto-based Hollinger Inc. Strike leaders claim that Hollinger, which acquired a majority interest

in the Herald and the rest of the Southern newspaper chain in July 1996, is orchestrating the Herald's headline scare on the strike. They say Hollinger wants to set an example for other member newspapers that might be susceptible to certification drives. Union activists also contend that Hollinger has a keen interest in any personally profitable papers in the Herald, which they say are being kind of money and talent to help prop up the money-losing National Post, the newspaper Hollinger launched a year ago and which is locked in a fierce battle for national supremacy with The Globe and Mail.

Herald publisher Don Guyton firmly rejects such accusations. Savagely for dealing with the union, he said. Marshall last week, it entirely up to Calgary. "Head office and Hollinger have asked us to ensure our best judgement." As for grapping the Post, Guyton says the Herald's editorial budget has not been reduced in any significant way in recent years.

There have been no substantial cuts, he says. The newsroom strike began on Nov. 6 (the Herald's circulation and advertising departments are also unaffected). Herald managers have the help of about 30 replacement workers, half of whom are managers from other Hollinger newspapers. By last week, they had been joined by 34 newsroom employees who had chosen to cross picket lines (116 remain on strike). The most contentious issue is a seniority clause among that, in any layoffs, the most senior have will be the first to go. Guyton is adamantly opposed to this, saying that it means a paper's ability to hire the very best and reward initiative. In the case of the Herald, Guyton maintains union leaders were the protection to they can continue to make some editorial changes "free from the responsibilities of basic job expectations."

What Guyton is alluding to is an ideological shift that has occurred in the Herald in recent years. According to the newspaper's current editor-in-chief Peter Menzies, the Herald of a decade ago was afflicted with what he describes as left-leaning "group think." Both as news copy and in editorials, he adds, seemed "arrested at odds" with the city's prevailing conservative ethos. Three years ago, Menzies, then the newspaper's editorial page editor, started making changes. "I thought we should be more inclined to support free markets and free enterprise," Menzies told Marshall.

About the same time, the Herald, under then-publisher Kim King, moved to rework the writing of news copy. Editors instituted a policy known as F.A.R. for "firmness, accuracy and balance." In theory, F.A.R. simply meant that both sides of the story should be represented high up in the copy. But in

practice, say in many newsroom critics, F.A.R. tended to ensure that conservative issues got top billing. "It really was quite insidious," recalls Marshall. "I could keep getting letters reminding me to phone the local Reform MP for comments." Nor did it help that some managers took it upon themselves to alter stories late at night without consulting editors—a practice Marshall mildly dubbed "drive-by editing."

Longtime Herald staffers didn't take kindly to the implication that, pre-F.A.R., they were a band of faddish left-wingers who produced unbalanced stories. They were also disturbed by other changes they saw in the paper. Brian Bennett, who has been a Herald reporter since 1974, says a new voice at a place where writers pursued stories "even if it meant passing off a corporate client or two." Now, he maintains, civic businessmen often overwhelm journalists' objectivity.

The tension in the newsroom led to what many had considered the unthinkable. After successfully leading off union drives for decades—in part, by paying them well conservative wages—Herald managers switched in dismay as newsroom employees voted 75 per cent in favour of certification in November 1998.

The labour dispute that ensued has revealed some fascinating newsroom changes. In one of many early weekend pickets posed on the union's behalf, Marshall, 57, was at times barely audible—then again, he given the impression of a man who rarely raises his voice. Marshall spent more than 15 years covering business, education and the environment for the Herald. What he never thought he'd be doing is leading a strike against his employer. When Marshall first became involved a year and a half ago in the drive to certify newsroom employees, he considered the effort a "pipe dream." What he describes as the "modestly conservative people" who serve for the 116-year-old Herald had little appetite for union politics. Even now, more than four weeks into the walkout, one of the common inside Marshall hears is that the strikers are no politicos for their own good. Public relations consultants, he says, told them they really could do enough to get a bit.

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Canada

Into extra innings

A New Yorker bids to save Montreal's Expos

An ardent baseball fan since the 1950s and a minority owner of the Montreal Expos, Mark Rouseberg cautions that even his passion for the Grand Old Game won't outweigh the past year's "That's how tough it's been for me," says Rouseberg, referring to down-on-its-knees Expos ownership to keep the baseball club in Montreal, not to mention the sub-par performance by the team and away-away fans. After a saga marked by floating deadlines and speculation that the club might head south, Expos owners finally got a go-ahead last week for a corporate game plan: a 300-league baseball owners unanimously approved the purchase of a controlling interest in the team by New York City area dealer Jeffrey Loria. For now, at least, the deal helps secure the club's future in Montreal and brings it a step closer to getting a new, downtown, baseball-only ball park. New city-core stadiums and winning teams have proved to be lucratively popular elsewhere, Rouseberg notes, "and that's our goal over the next three years."

It won't be easy. The Expos must still resolve financial issues before they can launch construction on a projected

\$200-million ball park with seats for about 37,000 fans. Other questions loom. After the worst attendance in major league history—an average of just 9,547 people a game—how will the Expos lure fans back to a much maligned Olympic Stadium, then east-end home since 1977, until the new park opens, the owners hope. In 2002 Loria faced such questions as he prepared to make his debut before Montreal's news media this week. A baseball aficionado who once owned a Triple-A team in Oklahoma City, Loria replaces departing owner Claude Brochu, leading a group injecting \$75 million into the club.

One of the prospective minority investors is a member of the wealthy and powerful Brodwin family. Stephen, 33, a Senators board member and the son of the Expos founding owner-chairman, Charles Brodwin. His participation gives a boost to the survival plan of the 31-year-old club. Baseball commissioner Bud Selig said he is "very hopeful" that his world developments

Olympic Stadium: a cavern maligned by stay-away sports fans

will contribute to "long-term stability and health" for the Expos.

To reach this goal, the corporate players must finalize several key matters, including details of the new ownership arrangement and a deal with the federal government for Coors land south of the Molson Centre that the club seeks as the stadium site. The owners want to start construction early in the new year. They also want to raise about \$75 million from the public partly through the sale of so-called seat licenses, which provide the right to buy season tickets in the new ball park. Still sounding cautious last week, Expos chairman Jacques Ménéral declared: "I will celebrate and raise the champagne when we break ground."

Other Montrealeers were already happy. "I think it's fantastic for the city and for baseball fans," said retailer Stuart Shewchuk, 32, who mailed off his first installment cheque last week for a \$10,000 seat license. But skeptics wonder whether Montrealeers will generate enough support to keep the team in the city. In the background loom the sometimes-firm promises on all Canadian clubs: big-money competition with



Loria: a corporate relocation plan

American teams for players; the added cost of paying salaries in U.S. funds. The Quebec Nordiques and Winnipeg Jets are already cautious, and other NHL teams are skating scared. Last week, Ottawa Senators owner Rod Bryden said he is starting to look at selling the team to U.S. interests because the Canadian government has not offered tax breaks he says are necessary for his team to compete. And without such help, said Vancouver Canucks general manager Brian Burke, more NHL clubs are sure to topple.

But Rouseberg remains optimistic: "With the right product and right venue, I'm convinced the franchise will work as well as most in the United States." As with each chapter in the Expos story, the next one remains pivotal.

Brooks Brannan is Montreal's

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Terms of secession

The federal government prepared legislation for introduction in Parliament this week that will set out terms for negotiations with Quebec if it votes to secede in a referendum. The proposed law was designed to comply with guidelines outlined last year by the Supreme Court, which stated that Canada and Quebec should negotiate details of a clear question—no leave: Canada. Although the legislation may not define precisely what would constitute a majority or clarity in a question, it would outline issues to be resolved before secession. One element, said federal Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Stéphane Ducey, would be establishing the borders of an independent Quebec—also in which divergent people of northern Quebec would play a role.

The careless counterparty

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service fired an officer blamed for the loss of a secret document. CSIS is investigating events in which the officer left a briefcase with information regarding threats to Canadian security in the back seat of his car while attending a Maple Leaf hockey game in Toronto in October. The officer—police say three drug addicts—stole and then threw away the briefcase.

Charges in a swearing death

After almost three weeks investigating the murder of 15-year-old Toronto schoolboy Owen (Matt) Dunsorek in a neighbourhood park, police arrested two 16-year-old boys and charged them with second-degree murder. Because they are juveniles, publication of their names is forbidden by law.

Beswading a Canadian boxer

The Canadian Amateur Boxing Association cancelled an entry weight division at Montreal's Dorval airport in August, 1998, he recounts, federal officials were so confused that they did not detain the other passengers. (Previously, the sick person did not have the highly contagious, often fatal disease.) "The lack of attention to the handling of the way these threats are to be managed," Dunsorek said, "places the health of Canadians at undue risk."

Canada Notes



Hamilton's football team is the Cats' meow

What seemed like most of Hamilton's population swarmed the homecoming TigerCats in the Lake Ontario city when the new Canadian Football League champions paraded the club's first Grey Cup since 1966, the prize for defeating the Calgary Stampeders 32-21 in Vancouver on Nov. 26. After the celebration, former CFL star Ron Lancaster, 65, head coach of the Cats since 1997, signed on for a further four years.

A scolding for the government

In a stinging rebuke, Auditor General Denis Desautels charged that the federal government is floundering in its attempt to handle the enormous health and fiscal challenges of the 21st century. In his annual report on financial statements, Desautels warned that Canadian face increased risks from consumer-credit abuses—but Health Canada has not even launched out across-the-board agreements with the provinces to control personal car accidents. When a passenger with a suspected case of a deadly viral fever landed at Montreal's Dorval airport in August, 1998, he recounts, federal officials were so confused that they did not detain the other passengers. (Previously, the sick person did not have the highly contagious, often fatal disease.) "The lack of attention to the handling of the way these threats are to be managed," Desautels said, "places the health of Canadians at undue risk."

The audience general was equally critical about the risks for money that taxpayers have incurred in everything from fisheries management to construction projects abroad. The Pacific salmon fisheries, he warned, may have to be closed for a short period to allow stocks to recover. He attacked sales of cost overruns ranging from 66 per cent to 153 per cent on embassy construction projects. He accused a kickback scheme in which National Defence personnel have been pocketing under-the-table payments from service contractors in exchange for purchasing goods at inflated prices for embassy vehicles.

Desautels added that the federal government has created numerous new "arrangements" to deliver services, such as the multi-billion-dollar Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation. Such schemes, which work through partnerships with other governments and agencies, may "erode the ability of Parliament to scrutinize the use of federal power and the right of citizens to accountable government."

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Canada Notes

Farm-income crisis

The Saskatchewan legislature prepared to reconvene this week, capping an unusually busy pre-Christmas political session on the Prairies. Premier Roy Romanow, whose New Democratic Party was reduced to a minority government in the Sept. 16 provincial election, planned to open with an emergency debate on the farm-income crisis, caused by two record-low commodity prices. Romanow has convinced his fellow premiers to call on Ottawa to hold a pre-Christmas First Ministers' meeting on the matter. "It may seem like a tight time line," he concedes, "but what's been done in the past."

In Manitoba, NDP Premier Gary Doer, whose party ended 11 years of Conservative rule in a Sept. 21 election, fulfilled a promise to convene the legislature before the new year. But other election promises, including a key pledge to fix Manitoba's ailing health-care system, may take longer than planned because Doer says the inherited budget deficit is larger than expected. Health-care issues also dominated the recent fall session of the Alberta legislature, where the opposition parties are attacking Premier Ralph Klein's plans to allow more contracting of health services to the private sector.

Montfort reprieve

Ontario's Divisional Court ruled that a provincial commission designed to restructure the province's health system ignored the constitutional rights of francophones by ordering deep operational cuts two years ago at Ottawa's Montfort Hospital, the sole French-only teaching hospital in Ontario. The commission had initially ordered the hospital closed altogether, but in the face of widespread opposition, settled on the cuts that would have eliminated Montfort's emergency services, acute-care wards and 110 of its 198 beds. Last week, after the court's ruling, Health Minister Elizabeth Wignall said she was awaiting directions from the commission about what to do next.

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World

Will Britain Lose Its Marbles?

Greece scores points in the long struggle over Lord Elgin's treasures

By Barry Carne in London

As a pleasant spot for lunch, the choice may well have been appropriate. What better place to serve tea and sandwiches to a host of hungry historians than the British Museum's Elgin Gallery? The room is large, more than capable of accommodating the 200 visitors. And adorning the walls are Lord Elgin's famous Marbles, the same 2,500-year-old Greek sculptures the international scholar had pursued in London to examine and debate. But there were many in the kitchen crowd last week who found the entire affair outrageous. Nary a drop of tea, not a nibble of egg and toast, passed the night tips of any of the assembled members of the Greek delegation. "Not the business of ideas," muttered Constantinos Bratsis, chargé d'affaires of London's Greek Embassy, "disrespectful and tasteless in the extreme." More succinct yet was Athenian writer and journalist Eleni Bakla. "It risks."

The Greeks (it had been excited not only by the sight of people "sneaking food," as Bakla complained, in close proximity to one of Greece's precious national treasures. It was also the result of a blustering remark launched earlier in the day by her Jenkins, the British Museum's assistant keeper of Greek and Roman antiquities. Some of the classical world's finest works "will sit on the Parthenon as I speak," Jenkins asserted, laying the blame squarely on Greek authorities in charge of protection. "Bleating is a very bad word that makes me very angry," retorted Ioannis Tziaris, director of the Acropolis museum in Athens. "The subject of this conference is not what we have done in Greece—



Recovering the works in 1945 from wartime storage, Jenkins (left) conceding it's scandal

England over the next 81 years. His action was deeply controversial at the time—Lord Byron would later in his poem *The Corsair of Minerva*—but a parliamentary committee ultimately concurred here.

Since 1983, successive Greek governments have campaigned for the return of the Marbles, insisting that they rightfully belong back on the acropolis that still sits atop the Acropolis overlooking Athens. The British have resisted, arguing that Elgin's move saved the Marbles from certain destruction by vandals and the elements. Their continued preservation, the British claim, is best guaranteed by remaining under the care of the British Museum, where the Marbles have resided since 1816.

Recent evidence suggests, however, that the museum has not been as careful a custodian as it should have—nor as honest. Last year, William St. Clair, a 63-year-old Cambridge University historian and archeological sleuth, published *Lord Elgin and the Marbles*, a

book that the British have done to Greek antiquities here in London. On that count, as the symposium revealed, the British have a case to answer—at least over Lord Elgin's celebrated Marbles. Originally, the museum converted the two-day conference in hopes of cooling the mounting ardor in the long battle for control of the works. They were followed by the sculptor Phidias in the fifth century BC, when the art flourished under Athenian ruler Pericles. Fearing they could be damaged in the conflict between the Greeks and the Turks, an emissary and diplomat Thomas Bruce, the 7th Earl of Elgin, had them removed from the walls of the Parthenon in 1801 and transported to

sensational account of "irreparable damage" inflicted on "80 per cent" of the sculptures and friezes in the 1930s, followed by 60 years of bureaucratic cover-up, including outright lies to three British prime ministers. St. Clair claims that many of the Marbles were "skinned" in the late '30s by unskilled

workers welding banners and chisel to remove sootied points and the lost traces of the original painted decoration. The action was taken at the urging of Lord Duveen, a wealthy art dealer who was financing a new gallery for the Marbles and wanted them to appear "wider than wheat." The results of an internal museum inquiry, conducted in 1939, were never published, apparently to protect the careers and reputations of the museum's directors.

St. Clair's accusations have fueled the debate over the ultimate fate of the Marbles. The Greek government eagerly seized upon his findings. But it was not until last week that the British Museum's authorities finally agreed that, at least in part, St. Clair's account was accurate. "The way Duveen went about cleaning the sculptures was a scandal," Jenkins acknowledged to the symposium delegates. "The way the museum tried and failed to cover it up was a scandal." He admitted that Sir John Forsdyke, museum director in the 1930s, had deliberately hushed up the extent of the Duveen "cleaning" in order "to save his own neck."

At the same time, however, Jenkins said St. Clair's claims were exaggerated. Rather than 80 per cent of the Marbles suffering damage, only 60 per cent had been "affected," he said. And far from stoking Greek indignation, Jenkins exonerated it by accusing the Greek authorities of using St. Clair's charges to buttress their campaign to regain control of the Marbles. From now, he claimed, the damage suffered by antiquaries in Greek control was much worse than anything Duveen could have devised. "The continued deterioration of the [Parthenon's] west frieze," he charged, "and the spoiling of all the Acropolis sculptures exposed to acid rain, is the greatest of all tragedies."

If the symposium was designed to cool tempers, it failed. To members of the Greek delegation, the gallery launch itself was a calculated insult, a reminder of recent scandals over the museum changing deep-pocketed corporate clients as much as \$75,000 a night to rent the Elgin Gallery for megacorp headquarters with tags. "Those stories were a big issue back in Greece," said charge Britos.

In the end, the symposium may simply have added momentum to the growing sentiment, even in Britain, to send Lord Elgin's Marbles back to where they came from. Once again, a parliamentary committee is on the case. A select group of MPs has been studying the possibility of a return, perhaps only in the new millennium or for the opening of the Olympic Games in Athens in 2004. If that comes to pass, the British Museum will have to find another use for the Elgin Gallery—perhaps as a restaurant. ☐

The Right Way On...



John Burt Foster, Jr.

Author of

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Mass grave probed

FBI and Mexican agents, employing methods used in Kosovo to uncover mass graves, dug up the remains of six victims who may have been executed by drug-cartel hit men at a ranch near Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso, Tex. The site is a cousin for Colombian cocaine-busting efforts, and police are investigating the disappearance of as many as 100 people in the area.

Genetic breakthrough

A team of scientists from the United States, Britain and Japan deciphered the genetic code of a human chromosome in a milestone that could herald new treatments for diseases ranging from heart disease to schizophrenia. The team mapped the sequence of the protein-coding genes of chromosome 22, second smallest of the 23 pairs of human chromosomes.

Mahatma wins again

Long-ruling Malaysian Prime Minister Mahatma Mohamad easily won a snap general election, fending off a challenge from a newly united opposition led by the wife of an imprisoned leader. The opposition doubled its seats, and Anwar Ibrahim, wife of jailed former deputy premier Anwar Ibrahim, captured the seat her husband had held for 16 years.

Feeling crushed

Edward Snowden, 37, of Toronto, is suing the Starbucks coffee chain for \$2.2 million, claiming his penis was caught and crushed under a faulty toilet seat on one of the firm's outlets in Manhattan on Aug. 20. He says the firm, 35, denied the suit, claiming he was "slipped off his services."

Kohl admits involvement

A German prosecutor said he may open a criminal investigation against former chancellier Helmut Kohl in a party funding scandal involving Karlheinz Scheibitz, a figure in the Airbus affair now facing extradition from Canada. Kohl admitted he knew about illegal donations to access bank accounts the Christian Democratic operated while he was leader.

World Notes

The G-G in Kosovo

A helmet-clad Gen. Gen. Adrienne Clarkson speaks to soldiers from Prince's Pentecost's Canadian Light Infantry Battle Group at an encampment in Gorge Novitica, Kosovo. Accompanied by her husband, John Rolleston Saul, Clarkson made her first official overseas trip to visit Canadian troops in Kosovo and, as commander-in-chief of the Canadian Forces, to present soldiers with NATO medals for their service in the still-troubled Yugoslav province. "The people look here as proud of you," Clarkson told them.



Northern Ireland rules itself at last

Unboring in what they hope will be

as acts of lasting peace. Northern Ireland's long-running antagonism set down together in a governance partnership. The Protestant Ulster Unionists, the Catholic Sinn Féin and other sectarian parties formed an executive under Unionist First Minister David Trimble that will give the province its first local government since 1974.

Under a series of power moves negotiated by former U.S. Senator George Mitchell, Britain and Ireland agreed the

act and creates required under the long-proposed 1998 Good Friday peace accord to bring about self-rule and a re-orientation of British claims to Ulster. And the Irish Republican Army, under seven years to turn over its weapons, confirmed it had appointed a representative to meet with the disarmament commission headed by retired Canadian general John de Chastelain. Canadian citizens, however, were only two years that "the Troubles" had claimed 3,500 lives in the past 36 years. "We are at the end of a terrible era of violence," said Irish Taoiseach, deputy leader Seamus Mallon. "People are almost afraid to hope."

Looking for signs of life on Mars

NASA's Mars Polar Lander touched down on schedule on the red planet, although radio signals confirming it was working had not reached Earth by late Saturday. The \$245-million Lander's main mission is to look for signs of water and whether Mars might have had a climate capable of supporting life. The Lander was also expected to deliver new up-close images of the Martian surface and relay actual sounds from the planet back to Earth.

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Shopping in the West
Edmonton's Mall is a
performance for stores

dian Shopping Guide, a Web portal, grew by 60 per cent to 300. Used recently, says Retail Council vice-president Randy Scotland, there were too few Canadian sites to build shopping recommendations. "This is radically changing," he says. "It's gone from solely bricks and mortar to clicks and mortar."

The numbers are even more dramatic in the United States. There, Boston-based technology analysts the Yankee Group forecast the 1999 holiday shopping market to reach \$12.3 billion—up 32.4 per cent in a year.

Undoubtedly, no one wants to be left behind. That's why retailers such as Sears Canada have expanded their offerings. Others, such as Montreal-based hardware chain Rona Inc., have jumped in with new Web sites. And Rona has just launched zoro.com. Like many new online entrants, the Toronto-based firm opted to limit its selection of athletic wear, leather goods and casual clothing as it learns the ropes. Sales were at first limited to Canada, but company co-founder Michael Budman says the United States will be added before Christmas, with overseas markets targeted for some time in 2000. "Our brand has a global following and we have limited distribution as far as bricks and mortar go," Budman says. "It's going to be a huge benefit."

As with anything new, there are obstacles to overcome. Analysts expect some companies to be overwhelmed and unable to deliver their products in time for holiday celebrations. And, Scott Johnson, co-director of the e-commerce program at Andersen Consulting in Chicago, says consumers have concerns

over providing personal information online or being able to return items, while many enjoy shopping in stores. With retailers counting on the holiday season to earn half or more of their annual revenues, it is a critical campaign to not make mistakes. "Basically," says Johnson, "it's make hay while the sun shines."

The shifting shopping patterns are causing more than a few headaches. This is especially true for the owners of shopping malls, which typically charge a percentage of their tenants' retail sales, as well as rent. In mid-November, Hyatt Properties LP ran the 170 tenants of their Galleria Mall in St. Louis, Mo., a letter asking them to stop promoting online sales. After most of the retailers ignored the letter, Hyatt backed down. Ron Peddicord, senior vice-president at Cadillac Fairview Corp. Ltd., which operates 52 malls across Canada, says he does not see how malls can ever meaningfully compete. "It's impractical and I would characterize it as unfair," he adds.

As analysts, retailers and mall owners strive to make sense and money out of a chaotic situation, shoppers like Judith Ryan in Halifax quietly mull over their options. Ryan, a writer and researcher, plans to spend about the same on Christmas gifts as last year, but her shopping will not be online. "I'm still a little worried about giving out my credit card number," she says. "I'm sure I'll get over that with time." If she and others do that, the sound of Christmas future could be a resounding click-click.

With John DeMott in Halifax and
Rick Atchley in Vancouver

Clicking all the way

A small but rapidly growing number of Canadians are doing their holiday shopping online

By Danylo Hewlettshuk

What little experience Laura Jo Garret has had with Internet shopping makes her want to stick to the stores. The first time she went online, Garret, 38, wanted to search for a 3-D version of *Snakes and Ladders* for her two young children. She eventually ordered the game from a Sears catalogue. Garret, the Vancouver Film School director of programming, found it better in her next online attempt. "I was going to order a CD for my son," she says. "The CD cost

\$18 and the delivery cost another \$10. That's ridiculous."

Garret, like many Canadians, will do her holiday spending offline, in malls and other traditional retail outlets. In fact, the Toronto-based Retail Council of Canada predicts in-store holiday sales will be up at least five per cent over last year. The robust economy is helping drive the seasonal surge. Unemployment was 6.9 per cent in November, an 18-year low, while the economy grew at an annualized rate of 4.7 per cent in the third quarter. But while traditional stores are still drawing the bulk of consumers, the landscape—or, the cyberspace—is changing.

Analysts say the 1999 holiday shopping season will be a watershed for e-commerce in Canada, with sales expected to more than double from 1998 to \$370 million.

That boost is largely attributable to the phenomenal growth in the number of online sites selling online. In the past three months alone, the number of retailers on the AltaVista Cana-

Big woes for some small Web vendors

Four thousand dollars to have a Web site designed; \$100 to register the name; \$40 a month for the Internet service provider. Facing in other online costs and book publisher Shannon Rose of Greenville, Ont., has spent more than

\$4,000 on her Web site over the past year—and no one has bought a single thing yet. "I'm going to have to sell about 12,000 books to make up for that," says Rose. "And that's not going to happen."

Rose's misfortune illustrates the peril small businesses face when rushing to cash in on electronic commerce. When Rose launched Grandma's Books from her home 10 km west of Hamilton, everyone told her she needed a Web page. "While her books are entertaining, sell well in stores, and online through the

U.S. giant Amazon.com, Rose says countless hours spent tinkering with grandmaonline.com have been fruitless.

That comes as no surprise to Randy Scotland, a vice-president at the Retail Council of Canada, which represents 8,000 large, medium and independent retailers. He cautions that several factors go into making a site successful, especially creating buzz through advertising. Then there are the not so simple mechanics of selling online: warehousing (Rose's basement, den and spare room are filled with books), ensuring prompt delivery, offering secure payment and processing returns. "The misconception is that all one needs to do is have some whiz-bang computer firm to design a really attractive Web site and Bob's your uncle," says

Scotland. "Well, it's not quite that easy."

Complicating matters are the stringencies Jim Okamura, a senior partner at retail analyst J. C. Williams Group, notes: there are three basic retail strategies one driven by low price (think Wal-Mart), another by in-demand merchandise (Pottery Barn, for example), and one by service. Small businesses usually opt for exceptional service, albeit for a bit more money. But there's a problem with cyberspace, where there are no helpful, smiling clerks. "Online, we don't feel that the service strategy has been figured out yet," says Okamura. That leaves entrepreneurs like Rose scratching their heads. "There's a pile of money to be lost," says Rose. She's right, of course, but the Web's untapped allure is that there's also a pile of money to be made.

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Business



Andruskevich at the Birks store, expressing "a wish to progress"

Polishing up Birks

The jewelry store chain has a new focus aimed at restoring its lost lustre

A sense of history seeps from the elegant downtown Montreal building that houses Henry Birks & Sons Inc. It's palpable in the 1894 jewelry store's imposing columns, sculpted ceiling and a sign detailing the Birks family's roots in silverware-making dating back to 16th-century England. It is also evident upstairs in chief executive Tom Andruskevich's office where a 1766 cutlery collection is mounted in a shadowbox. But the company is not just looking back. Birks is heading into the all-important holiday season actively trying to convert itself after a near-death experience in the early 1990s. When Andruskevich took over in 1996, he thought he had a good idea of what the ailing company needed. But he now laughs, conceding, "I think the task was larger than I expected." Which is not to say, he adds, "the challenges were insurmountable."

Birks' turnaround efforts are ambitious. The company is spending \$30 million to renovate most of its 36 stores across

Canada. It is also narrowing its focus on high-end jewelry and gifts while trying to woo younger clients. An Italian holding company, Investiva Repulse S.p.A., now owns the 120-year-old retailer after securing it from bankruptcy protection in 1993. The sale ended the family's ownership of the chain, which began when Henry Birks opened the first store in Old Montreal in 1877. Still, Andruskevich, a Pennsylvania native and former executive with U.S. jewelry store Tiffany & Co., once advised the Birks name has cachet. "The one thing I've found in Canada," he says, "is that people love Birks. They want Birks to win."

Figuring out what Birks did right and where it went wrong was his first order of business. "Somewhere along the line, Birks had tried to become all things to all people," says Andruskevich. It owned 220 stores at its peak in the 1980s—a period when it sold fashion jewelry and offered discount pricing. The company also got battered during the recession in the early 1990s. Inevitably, people drew comparisons between Birks and Canada's other famous family-run business, Eaton, now under bankruptcy protection. "It was almost the identical story," says Toronto retail consultant Richard Tillock, noting

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Business

how both expanded to the suburbs in hopes of greater profits. "When they succeeded in doing was doubling down their concept to such an extent that the consumer just got confused."

Under Andraskovich, Biko developed a strategic plan that sharpened its merchandise focus. It also began the store facilities. "They were not only dusty, some of our stores were mismanaging," he says, listing torn carpets and "very very old" fixtures. He maintains Biko is already reaping benefits from the upgrades, citing as an example the renewed Bloor Series store in Toronto that reopened in early November. "It has done incredibly well," says Andraskovich, noting that sales shot up 150 per cent compared with November last year. Biko hopes to post sales of about \$175 million this year, up from nearly \$100 million in 1998. It is also trying to win over younger customers, who, according to the company's research, "think Biko is for their parents, if not their grandparents," says Andraskovich.

Industry watchers say the company is making headway. "I think they've got all the right ingredients in place," says "Lobby." "The battle now is to take back the market share they lost over the last 10 years." Carol Boice, editor and associate publisher of *Canadian Jewellery magazine*, comments Biko has taken some risks by stocking jewelry that reflects global trends. "You can talk about management strategy and training and everything else in the world," she says, "but it's the merchandise that counts."

Andraskovich maintains the privately held Biko is not of the month financially. The company wants to open one or two new stores in Canada next year and is considering expansion into the United States and Asia. It also hopes to launch an initial public offering around 2003. "We're still a work in progress," says Andraskovich. But he adds, "We've made tremendous progress." It has long made headway for the jewellery iconoclast in Canada with its signature blue box.

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The banks, one year later

Ottawa may have rejected some of their merger proposals, but Canada's Big Six are still ringing up record profits

By John Nicol

On Manitoba television, a pennyman 10-year-old girl cross-examines two credit-union managers about the services they provide, and then declares: "I don't know why I didn't come here years ago." In British Columbia, thousands of TV viewers have become familiar with the antics of a bumbling bear, a bouncing springbok and a gosseling hippo—all of them having abandoned their financial institutions for credit unions. According to the Credit Union Central of British Columbia, that "I Switched" campaign will boost credit-union membership, which has been on the increase since 1995 and now counts one in three B.C. residents as customers. The reason for the optimism is simple, says the union's marketing

manager Maria Doyle: "Frustrated users of other financial institutions are seeking to do the business our way."

Frustration is the watchword all around. The big banks are still angry about the defeat of their merger plans one year ago, complaining that their inability to get bigger is hampering them in the expanding global industry. But the six larger banks also have generated controversy by massive announcements of 16,530 job cuts at the same time as they have reported a record \$9.12-billion in combined 1999 profits. A year after Finance Minister Paul Martin rejected the Bay Street double wedding—Royal Bank of Canada with Bank of Montreal and Toronto-Dominion Bank with Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce—the banks have drawn toward reorganizing operations at the cost of

switching out to the public record of addressing customers over growing service changes, the banks have faced criticism for introducing new fees. And rather than focusing on service, say detractors, they have cut 163 branches and 1,202 jobs, while unabashedly blaming Martin for the changes. "In the end, the banks really aren't interested in the common person," argues the University of Manitoba's Robert Warren, a marketing professor who has worked with four of the top five Canadian banks. "They all buy the same software programs to identify their preferred clients. They'll keep those customers informed and happy because that's where the money is."

But the banks can take satisfaction that the money, for the moment, is staying with the big banks. Toronto-Dominion, Scotiabank and Bank of Montreal all made record profits, with TD Bank benefiting the most in the past year, scoring a \$2.98-billion profit (Almost half is attributed to special gains, including \$1.1 billion from

selling part of its discount brokerage, TD Waterhouse Group Inc.) Yet there are storm clouds on the horizon for the Big Six, which include National Bank of Canada. The merger spotlight on banks last year opened the banks to unprecedented public scrutiny. The negative reaction to bank practices has eased the way for Martin to introduce thorough financial services legislation, due before spring. Finance officials admit the concerns of a critical group like the Canadian Consumers' Renaissance Coalition are being taken more seriously in Ottawa. And the big banks' competitors have been emboldened. As Akshai Kishore, president of the two-year-old searchline bank ING Direct, says, the free-for-all by the established banks shows competition "might become a self-fulfilling prophecy."

The year also saw the departure of the Bank of Montreal's vice chairman Matthew Barrett, who was replaced by Tony Cooper, while John Harkin took over from Al Flood at CIBC. Bank spokesmen argue that services have expanded for customers, especially over the phone and through the Internet. Rick Kowit of the Bank of Montreal says his bank is finding new ways to deliver services, such as two- and three-person boutiques

instead of public sympathy. "All of their predictions about plague and pestilence haven't materialized, which just adds to their lack of credibility," said Catherine Swift of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. "They might as well have thrown out \$100 million out the window on Bay Street. They would have got a lot more public support that way than paying high-priced PR gurus to boost the whole thing."

The year also saw the departure of the Bank of Montreal's vice chairman Matthew Barrett, who was replaced by Tony Cooper, while John Harkin took over from Al Flood at CIBC. Bank spokesmen argue that services have expanded for customers, especially over the phone and through the Internet. Rick Kowit of the Bank of Montreal says his bank is finding new ways to deliver services, such as two- and three-person boutiques

Canadian would still expect their national banks to provide branches on street corners across the country. Kishore says it is a joke that the national banks see ING as a threat—it has only one-quarter of one per cent of the estimated trillion-dollar Canadian banking market. At the same time, he compares, now in its 29th month in Canada, has finally turned a profit. It has \$2.5 billion in assets, and its clients have grown by 110,000 in the past year, to 250,000—mainly, he says, because the big banks do not compete. "In most industries, you provide value through innovation or uniqueness or reduction in costs, or convenience as to the alternatives. Financial institutions are the only ones who do it the other way around—customers have to pay for their contracting costs, but the shareholders can keep marching along."

ING is just one of a number of alternatives attempting to capitalize on dissatisfaction with the chartered banks. Vancouver-based Citicore Bank of Canada, another branchless operation that received its charter in January, 1997, promises itself is a bank with a heart and a soul—it offers lower interest rates, makes only so-called ethical investments and is already turning a profit with more than 50,000 new customers in the past year. "The biggest draw to the region is not foreign banks," says Citicore Bank president Linda Gosselin. "It is that the big banks are all the same."

Other anti-bank movements are percolating in the West. "If you live in Manitoba, you see demonstration in the level of service," says Warren, who is director of his university's Agri Centre for Entrepreneurship. "Decisions on agricultural loans, which have been made here for 100 years, have been moved to Chicago."

A Toronto bank scene. Barrett (middle), Gosselin (far right) and Al Flood (left) are all seen merging-related



ten, the former secretary of state for international financial institutions, calls "the worst public relations disaster in Canadian banking history"—an 11-month aborted merger campaign that ended by cost the four merger-minded institutions \$100 million. The debacle began when the Royal and Bank of Montreal kept Martin in the dark about their plans. Then many of their pro-merger arguments were shot down by Scotiabank chairman Peter Godwin, whose bank was not merger-minded. As the months went on, say bank sources,

branches in grocery stores. He also contends that are being offered a broad range of service fees, including some at no cost, depending on the age of the client. The year's biggest change, yet to be approved, is TD Bank's purchase of Canada Trust. The framework for that approval process is being included in forthcoming legislation, which will set rule over mergers.

One of the banks' most common arguments was that foreign-based competitors could set up branchless banks—in ING Direct, whose parent is Dutch, has done—while

Finance Minister Martin wants profitable banks—and a system that is responsive to customers

That's why the trade organization for Manitoba's 47 credit unions, whose members operate in 51 communities not serviced by banks, came out with its TV ad campaign.

Finance Minister Martin ignored the banks have remained strong because of their integral role in the Canadian economy. "Every dispassionate observer said that the inevitable outcome of the merger would have been a greater loss of employment than what we're now seeing," he told *Maclean's*. His proposed legislation, a review of the entire financial services sector, allows for "the strongest banking system possible. That means profitable banks, but we want a banking system that is responsive to people's needs." The review, which began in December, 1986, and became known as the MacKay task force, led to last June's policy paper, which Martin wants to turn into legislation by March.

The delay in drafting legislation, he says, is not out of the ordinary. But critics like Duif Conacher, chairman of the Canadian Consumers' Movement Coalition, a group of 110 organizations that advocate more bank accountability,

says the delay has allowed banks to carry out their branch-cutting exercise without interruption. After the legislation becomes law, it is expected that financial institutions will be required to consult with consumers and give them up to 30 months' notice.

Conacher is pleased that Martin appears poised to adopt three-quarters of his group's financial reform recommendations, which were based on similar legislation in the United States. But he is disappointed the bill will skip short of any review of bank lending—which in the United States has caused banks to commit funds to assist the construction of affordable housing. Nor is Martin expected to seek penalties for discriminatory lending practices. Martin says banks have a role to play in a wide range of both economic and social issues, but he doesn't believe "adopting a cookie-cutter approach to U.S. legislation is the way to go in Canada. We have our own problems and we will have our own solutions."

Some of those Canadian solutions are



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the world's 24th-largest bank in assets in July. But Baurist was embroiled in controversy before he officially began serving his \$6-million salary, including bonus and stock options. In October, Baurist's larger bank-machine network was free to all customers. Now, Barclays has declared it will charge clients of other banks \$2.35 per transaction to use its machines, angering depositors who felt it was not cricket to have to pay for access to their own money.

But Baurist is expected to disappear in a swirl of controversy of electronic banking. With major emphasis on telephone and Internet banking, he approved the closure of 200 Barclays branches and the closing of 500 jobs that were in addition to the 7,800 layoffs Barclays announced before Baurist took charge.

In the end, says the Citizens Bank Group, the failed merger attempt at least spared Canadians to debate what kind of financial system they want. "People are questioning how far the banks have strayed from their original purpose—over the years the interests of banks have diverged from the interests of society at large," Pankaj says. "People are asking, the consensus," "Is it OK for banks to post enormous profits and at the same time use and in the same breath lay off a number of people? Once people start to question, you can't control how far this scrutiny goes." That is an issue confronting the banks as they try to balance the demands of their shareholders with those of the public. ■

How the banks stack up at century's end

	1989 Profits	No. of Canadian branches	Change from 1988	No. of employees	Change from 1988	Future outlook (year/line)
Toronto Dominion	\$2.98 billion*	518	-14	30,526	+1,400	4,590
Royal Bank	\$1.76 billion	1,410	-12	51,951	+135	4,000-6,200
Scotiabank	\$1.95 billion	1,178	-96**	40,894	-1,182	none
Bank of Montreal	\$1.36 billion	1,642	-23	32,944	-528	1,450
CIBC	\$1.03 billion	1,378*	-21*	45,958	-1,173	4,290
National Bank	\$407 million	845	-13	12,178*	+134	none

* Includes special gifts such as \$1.5 billion for selling part of its network
** AD due to National Trust merger
† Includes foreign branches
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Deirdre McMurdy

Investing, the contrary way

David Driscoll is every inch a contrarian. It isn't just his off-putting, self-spoken style that sets him apart in a business increasingly characterized by hype and self-promotion. Driscoll, 36, is a professional money manager who openly condemns mutual funds, makes initial public offerings of stock and criticizes the herd mentality of his colleagues. And that's not even the worst of it.

Instead of the usual investment industry credentials, Driscoll has a degree in history from the University of Western Ontario in London, Missouri. He started his career as a baseball analyst, providing statistical data for television networks like TSN and NBC. "I don't have a CFA [chartered financial analyst] designation—and I don't intend to get one," he says. "My advantage is to think differently, to approach the market with a fresh perspective."

After a three-year stint as editor of *The Investment Reporter*, he joined Torstar Capital Markets Inc. two years ago. Driscoll, who has \$50 million in assets under management, describes himself as a "value investor"—he looks for companies with cash-flow growth and avoids balance sheet weaknesses. He cites an 18-month stint as credit analyst with Dominion Bond Rating Service for his healthy skepticism for corporate debt. "I just knew it," he admits.

Although Driscoll insists that he's bullish about the strong stock market, he sounds like a bull in bear's clothing. "Investors have become greedy, arrogant and careless," he says. "They're fixating to take just the profits, they keep deviating from their goals and the bubble will eventually burst." Part of the problem, he notes, is that investors have become accustomed to extreme volatility in the market, and no longer pay attention to an warning signals.

But before a correction happens, he says there are several reasons investors can take to mitigate the inevitable crash. Although he is adamant that small-capitalization Canadian stocks have been unfairly neglected because their returns of 25-per-cent growth aren't deemed sufficiently "sexy," Driscoll suggests several guidelines for investing in high-flying technology stocks.

First and foremost, avoid Canadian technology stocks. He maintains that they face too much competition and too little capitalization to hold their own in the global industry. Second, always invest in the company that dominates in a sector—No. 2 or 3 will cut it in the long run. The third tip is wary of takeovers. As with the recent mergers in the share prices of Newsday Networks Corp. and W-LAN Inc., Driscoll suggests there is an inverse relationship between takeover and firm. "Where there is a rampant speculation about a pending deal, the chances a will meet expectations are slim."

Another rule of thumb for the technology sector is to avoid investing in both a supplier and an end-product manufacturer. For example, choose between film-optic equipment suppliers, such as JDS Uniphase Canada Ltd., or its leading clients, Nortel Networks Corp. or Lucent Technologies Inc. Otherwise, you are putting too many eggs into the same fragile basket.

Driscoll also says it's wise for investors to avoid the temptation of arbitrage where a company is involved in a legal dispute. "When a stock goes down because of fraud allegations, as in the recent case of Montreal-based entertainment company Cinair Corp., it's not necessarily an attractive buying opportunity. For the average investor, it's tough to second-guess the courts and anticipate their decisions—as Canadians discovered in the recent ruling of a Quebec court on the Orestal for Air Canada.

Another caveat is to control investment in December. Despite the so-called Santa Claus rally, Driscoll says equity markets are especially distorted at year-end by low selling and portfolio pumping of professional fund managers. "They need to show the fundholders that they've got all the stars and none of the dogs in their portfolio," he says. "It's a dangerous time for retail investors to get on the way." Similarly, he strongly advises individuals to avoid initial public offerings because of the hidden fees accruing to the underwriters and the time required for a new stock to find its fit.

But Driscoll reserves his strongest—and harshest—judgment for mutual fund investors. "They're a terrible investment, a real scam," he declares. In particular, he says the fee structure, usually around five per cent of the principal amount, carries away far too much of the potential return on investments. He also takes issue with capital gains allocations, and the amount of "churning," or stock trading that takes place in a typical fund. "Most fund managers work ahead, but they're clear and honest, who merely replicate the TSX 300," he says. "And if they can't produce the 15-per-cent return required to beat the market, you might as well save on fees and buy a no-charge index fund."

The study of history, he says, has been crucial in the development of his investment philosophy. "Examining the past, you realize that a lot of fundamentally never really change. That understanding gives you the discipline and the patience to stick with your strategy."

Part of Driscoll's strategy is to grow his asset base to half a billion dollars, and then cap it. "If you get too big, especially in a liquid market like Canada, you lose your edge and flexibility." And in every history student's lesson, those who do not learn from past mistakes are condemned to repeat them.

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Finding work

Canada's unemployment rate is now at its lowest level since 1981. The census of 88,000 full-time jobs in November pushed the jobless rate down to 6.9 per cent, and economists expect the trend to continue. Eight of the 10 provinces posted job gains last month, with Quebec leading the way with an unemployment rate of 8.4 per cent, the province's lowest level since 1976.

All revved up

Ontario is on the verge of surpassing Michigan as North America's No. 1 automobile—if not this year, then soon. A study by industry analyst Detroit Business of Richmond Hill, Ont., says that at the current pace, assembly plants in Ontario are expected to churn out 2,996 million cars, trucks and minivans this year, compared with Michigan's 3,005 million.

The Spar name lives on

Toronto-based Spar Aerospace Ltd., creator of the Canadian and abroad space-shuttle missions, will remain in business. Over the past two years, Spar has sold off several of its operations, including its space robotics division. The firm was to have been sold outright, but decided to focus on aircraft maintenance and repair.

Looking to the CRTC

CanWest Global Communications Corp. formally sought approval from federal regulators to acquire the television assets of Western International Communications, the Vancouver broadcaster that is being carved up by its principal shareholders. In its application, CanWest proposed "a significant cash-in-lieu-of-cash package of tangible benefits which exceeds the CRTC's policy requirements."

Bank magnate killed

Billionaire banker Edmund Safra, 67, was killed on Dec. 3 at his home in Capri, Italy, in a fire that was started by arsonists. Safra, the founder of the Republic National Bank of New York, had recently sold his business to HSBC Holdings, Britain's largest bank, for nearly \$13 billion. The cause for the attack is still unknown.

Business Notes

Teachers drive away with Cadillac

The Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board struck a \$2.3-billion deal to take Cadillac Fairview Corp. private. In an agreement backed by Cadillac Fairview's board, the plan will pay \$34 a share in cash for the 75 per cent it does not already own. One of the largest real estate companies in Canada, Cadillac Fairview has assets worth \$4.5 billion, including premium malls such as Vancouver's Pacific Centre and the Toronto Eaton Centre. Chief executive Claude Lamoignon says the fund wanted all of Cadillac Fairview for its portfolio in long-term investments in stable commercial properties. These are aimed at generating revenue to pay the benefits of 300,000 current and former teachers. In October, the teachers' board bought



The Pacific Centre in Vancouver sold

the Royal Bank of Canada covered real estate portfolio for \$827 million along with partners GE Capital Corp. and the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System.

Clearing the air for a possible deal

Representatives for Montreal-based Inter-Canadian Airlines and the Solidarity Fund, an airline group, began negotiations to save the region's carrier, which shut down on Nov. 28, stranding travellers and its 700 employees. A spokesman for Inter-Canadian, which flies Canadian Airlines, Montreal as well as on the west coast, around the struggling Calgary-based carrier, Monarch. Don Campbell, chairman of Texas-based AMR Corp., which owns a 25-per-cent voting stake in Canadian, suggested Air Canada will have to step in to take over its rival.

Financial Outlook

Canada is a hotbed for brooding people willing to try their hand at earning a living on their own, says Statistics Canada analyst Katherine Marshall.



It's but report "Working Together—Self-Employed Couples," Marshall notes self-employment doubled to 2.5 million Canadians between 1976 and 1996. Particularly striking is that in 35 per cent of couples in which both people work, at least one person is self-employed, up from 21 per cent two decades ago. When both parties are self-employed, 68 per cent, or 227,000 couples, run a business together. The trend indicates a steady rise, but because researchers do not know what is causing the numbers to climb, "I can't predict," says Marshall, "where this growth is going to stop."



Ross Laver

Asleep at the e-switch

Not long ago, Todd Finch, president of Canadian operations for the Sun-Norpage Alliance, was chatting with an executive of one of Canada's largest drug retailers. Finch is a passionate believer in the future of electronic commerce, so he was eager to find out whether the drugstore chain was planning to start selling over the Internet. "We don't really use a need for that right now," the drugstore executive replied. "We're not seeing enough demand from our customers."

Finch was disappointed but hardly surprised. Like many experts, he's convinced that Canadian firms aren't moving fast enough to embrace e-commerce. Not only are they far behind their U.S. counterparts, but in many cases it's hard to see how they will ever catch up.

Drug retailing offers an illustration of the problem. In the United States, the online pharmacy market is one of the fastest-growing e-commerce industries, led by companies such as PlanetRx.com, Drugstore.com and CVS.com. One recent study turned up 22 U.S. sites that fill or refill prescriptions and close to 75 that sell health and beauty products. Contrast that with what's happening in Canada. Shoppers Drug Mart, the country's largest pharmacy chain, doesn't sell anything from its Web site, which functions mainly as an online brochure. Another big chain, Pharmaprix Dispensary, part of Edmonton's Katz Group, has reserved a dot-com address but has yet to establish even a token Web presence.

Many Canadian retailers are skeptical that they can make money on the Net, and in some cases it's hard to blame them: the gold-rush mentality that nurtured dot-com businesses in the United States has led to some wildly unrealistic revenue expectations. But while Canadians wait to see whether a profitable online marketplace for their products will ever materialize, Americans are marching in and taking their toll. "Canadians have this wait-and-see attitude," Finch says. "The agency isn't there, in part because there's a belief that government regulation or cultural differences will stop Canadians from taking their business to the Net."

Finch doesn't buy it. He notes that the vast majority of Canadians who shop on the Net currently patronize U.S. sites, and that U.S. online retailers—or e-tailors, as some call them—tend to view Canadians as easy pickings. "Americans love our consumers because they think they're more loyal

than Americans. Once something works in the United States, they quickly start thinking of how to apply that model to our market." A good example was last month's announcement by Best Buy, a U.S. electronics discount chain, that it has opened a Canadian Web site. How difficult was it to establish a Canadian presence? Not difficult at all: the company merely converted its prices into Canadian dollars and subcontracted the warehousing of its 60,000 products to Laguna Micro, a major computer-products distributor with facilities in Mississauga, Ont., and Vancouver. With minimal overhead, the online operation is run from Best Buy's head office in Aliso Viejo, Calif. The company plans to follow a similar strategy in Europe next year.

The fact that U.S. Web retailers can spread their costs over a huge institutional market is what makes them such formidable competitors. Selling over the Internet doesn't have to be an expensive proposition: at the low end of the scale, a small company can probably get started for less than \$2,000. But the technology required to run a large e-commerce operation with a wide variety of products and the capacity to process thousands of transactions a day can easily run into tens of millions of dollars.

No one in Canada knows that better than Larry Stevenson, the CEO of Chapters Online, independent bookseller and some publications love to belittle. Stevenson first duked up a sleepy industry, but the truth is that without him, Canada's book business wouldn't stand a chance against the growing muscle of Amazon.com and other U.S. juggernauts. At one time, Chapters is waging an expensive battle. So far it has spent \$30 million in the online operation, and the costs are rising all the time. Mocking is a day expense, many U.S. e-tailors spend more on advertising these days than they get back in revenue. Then there's the constant pressure to invest in new and better technology. Chapters Online, for example, has had to upgrade its search engine twice in 15 months, each time at considerable expense. "It's a never-ending investment," Stevenson says. "Because the technology is a constantly being raised and consumers' expectations are always increasing."

Despite the expense, Stevenson is committed to staying in the fight. The bad news of his counterparts in Canada is retreating, still haven't decided whether to enter the ring. If none of them can't do business 10 years from now, we'll know why



Stevenson: taking on the U.S. giant



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NATIONAL POST

Canadian Airlines

Deciphering debit-card dilemmas

There's no doubt Canadians love their debit cards. They hold 36 million of them for use at more than 400,000 automatic teller machines and automatic banking machines. But some consumers are finding that their passion for



A generic ATM is recharge each time.

plastic can carry a steep price tag. More than 4,000 generic machines, owned by about 80 private companies, have sprouted everywhere from convenience stores to casinos to street corners. If customers decide to withdraw cash from one of them, they can expect to pay a surcharge ranging from \$1 to \$20 per transaction. That's on top of the 30-cent to \$1 fee their own financial institution may charge them when they have a **swallow service package**. (Consumers also pay fees when they access other banks' ARMs.) "We used to say consumers were being scolded-and-slapped to death," says Jerry Hillard, vice-president of the Ottawa-based Consumers' Association of Canada, "but now they're not being slapped and five-dollar to death."

Ironically, the proliferation of the generic ARMs—and the extra money consumers pay to use them—can be

traced to the federal government, which has been keeping a close watch on bank service fees. Until 1996, the bylaws of Interac, the national electronic financial transaction network, barred its members from charging a surcharge. But that year, Ottawa mandated an amendment allowing surcharges—to encourage competition. "They said the marketplace could determine the price," says Sara Feldman, Interac's vice-president for communications and marketing.

A host of online debit card is worthless to anyone who does not know the owner's personal identification number. Despite that, too many consumers will make it too easy for others to figure out their PIN, says Feldman. Her advice: never tell anyone the PIN, never write it on the back of the card and do not let anyone look on when using the card. As well, Feldman says people should not base their PIN on any variation of their birth date. The fine print on their agreement with the issuing financial institution may state they are not protected from loss in that case.

Forecast: Housing prices

The cost of buying a home is expected to go up 2.3 per cent next year with the average Canadian home costing \$164,620. The biggest jump, according to the Canadian Real Estate Association, will be in Edmonton, where prices are projected to climb by 4.7 per cent. Vancouver's real estate prices will be marginally next year, showing no change at all.

Projected average house prices for selected Canadian markets in 2000



Money Talks

Tips for travelers

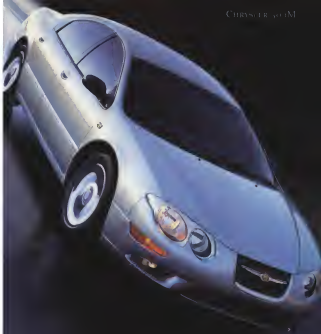
Being a snowbird reaches more than just packing the car and heading to warmer climes. In *The Canadian Snowbird Guide* (McGraw-Hill Ryerson, \$22.95), Vancouver financial adviser Douglas Geng shows how seniors can survive the winter in the southern United States or Mexico without banking the bank. In its third revised edition, the book provides information and advice on everything from out-of-country medical insurance to customs regulations to the effect of recent changes in the Canada-U.S. tax treaty.

More time for trades

Royal Bank Action Direct took a first step in responding to the growing pressure for extended trading hours. Now, instead of closing at 5 p.m., the Toronto-based Royal Bank subsidiary, which bills itself as Canada's fastest-growing online broker, has become one of the first to let clients trade up to 6:30 p.m. EST. While customers can only place, modify or cancel orders through an Action Direct screen, they can monitor their trade via touch-tone phone or computer.

Plaudits for a newsletter

It may not have made *Forbes*, but *The Investment Reporter* seems to know a thing or two about making money grow. Halbert Financial Digest, an Arlington, Va.-based investment advisory service, ranked the Toronto-based weekly newsletter published by MFL Communications among the best in North America. Over the past 15 years, according to *Halbert*, the overpriced newsletter returns for stocks *The Investment Reporter* recommended was 14.7. During the same period, the TSX 300 rose 11.1 per cent annually, and the average Canadian equity fund put 8.9 per cent



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The 1999 Honour Roll

Achieving Excellence



Julie Payette



Pierre Pettit



Vania Jurek-Spina



Ruth Goldblum



Bob Williams



Lynne (Betty) Anson

In the 14 years of the Maclean's Honour Roll, there has been one constant. Those chosen for having "made a difference" share a quintessentially Canadian modernity, regardless of their field. As honoree Dr. Vania Jurek-Spina put it when she received an earlier recognition: "Why are we not? To reward me for something that I have done, which she [myself] Jurek-Spina is among a record eight women on the 1999 Maclean's list of achievers, which includes household names along with others who work almost anonymously. Julie Payette, for one, captured the imagination of Canadians when she soared into space. Now, she is soaring, below the atmosphere, between Moscow and Houston on another space-related assignment, while Sister Lesley Saccoccia is firmly planted on the ground, a nurse to the desperate Winnipeg nursing children to whom she offers a helping hand. More widely known is Quebec's Caroline Brauer, the world's best female lawyer, now focused on winning gold at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. And there is Ruth Goldblum, a tireless community worker whose efforts paid off this year in the unveiling of the Pier 21 historical site in Halifax.

Another of the 12 Honour Roll selections who helped promote Canadian history is Lynnson (Bob) Williams, who gave \$500,000 of his own money to help establish a foundation that will nurture the study of our past. Jack Robinson, who opened his wallet—to fund Canada's richest literary fiction prize, the Giller, in honour of his late wife. For his part, Colin Stewart followed his

heart to East Timor where the former diplomat is helping a new nation emerge from Indonesia's yoke. Meanwhile, back in Canada, author Pierre Berton keeps on typing and making his distinctive contribution to nation-building. Another who combines the past with the present is the visionary architect Raymond Nadeau, whose work is admired around the world.

One of the year's most tragic events was the shooting of 17-year-old Jason Tang in Etobicoke, Ont. The plan of his parents, Rev. Dale and Diane Tang, that forgiveness and understanding—not retribution—be offered their son's killer clearly makes this couple worthy of recognition. On a lighter note, Maclean's salutes Mary Walsh, Rick Moros, Cathy Jones and Greg Thorne, who make us laugh, often at ourselves, on a weekly basis.

All honorees receive a bronze medal depicting, appropriately, the conquering winged horse Pegasus, designed by the award-winning artist Denis de Pelsmacker.



Mary Walsh, Greg Thorne, Rick Moros and Cathy Jones. They make us laugh, often at ourselves.



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Michael Benedek



Lesley Saccoccia



Alphonse Roy

Julie Payette



'Here I am with it all spread out for me'

Julie Payette, by Peter Begg, at the Johnson Space Center in Houston

ON A TYPICALLY SWEETENING afternoon in Houston, Julie Payette turns up right on time for an appointment at the Johnson Space Center. She's just flown in from a training session in California. In a few days, she'll off to Moscow to start a new job as liaison between North American astronauts and Russian cosmonauts building the International Space Station, 400 km above the Earth. Aside from the technical manuals that every astronaut keeps nearby, she's noting a load of Russian language textbooks for her latest assignment. All this—and she doesn't even break a sweat.

Much about Payette seems almost too good to be true: her fierce ambition, her multiple talents as engineer, pilot, linguist and athlete, even her good looks and tireless optimism. Her flight last May aboard the space shuttle Discover-

ey made her a Canadian hero, and a superstar in her native Quebec. She was just the eighth Canadian to go into orbit, and the second woman, but her mission came at a time when the hot-burn space program needed a dose of glamour.

All that comes at a price. After months of intense training and her 11-day mission, the Canadian Space Agency put her on a cross-country tour to promote space travel—with stops in the field as frequent as the Arctic. She managed barely two weeks off to visit family and friends in Montreal before taking up the new job contrasting between Houston and Star City, the cosmonaut base near Moscow. "Everyone wants a piece of you," she says, "but you can't complain. It really is a family job."

Payette, 36, makes it all seem easy. But for the francophone daughter of a ventilation engineer and a bookkeeper, to de-

cide to shoot for the stars was extraordinary enough. A high-school counsellor once advised her to think about becoming an airline flight attendant, but Payette's ambitions were far greater. The rewards are great as well. Orbiting aboard Discovery, she took hundreds of photographs of Earth and gazed at the planet beneath her: "I had to pinch myself—was it amazing and beautiful and vast, and here I am with it all spread out for me."

The costs, too, are great. As open as Payette is about her work, she is fiercely guarded about her private life. She is married to a University of Quebec in Montreal engineering professor, François Béliveau, but neither she nor her tight circle of loyal friends will discuss how they manage their long-distance relationship. Almost every part of her life, she explains, is controlled by other people: NASA officials,

trainers and schedulers who map out every day. She draws her hands together into a circle. "This," she says, meaning her personal life, "is the only little piece of me I can keep control of."

Despite appearances, Payette admits to being far from perfect. She quotes a French saying: "On a la difficulté de se qualifier"—roughly, one's shortcomings match one's strengths. In her case, her ambition and training, she agrees, can lead to less desirable traits. "Oh," she smiles, "I know I'm a perfectionist, driven, maybe even compulsive. It's part of the package." But it's a package that comes together very well. "The most important thing is to find your niche in life, your element," she says. "This is mine."

Andrew Phillips

JACK RABINOVITCH IS AN incongruous figure in the run-down Toronto building that houses the documentary film company Associated Producers. Not only is the 69-year-old real estate developer never as old as anyone else in the office, he has less money money. But Rabinovitch has signed on to raise funds for the company because the young filmmakers are his kind of people—10-per-centers. “The guys bent over in that corn effort to do the best they can,” says an approving Rabinovitch. “The 10-per-cent rule,” he adds, is the margin in hard work and spending between meebow and first-rate, and it “makes a difference in absolutely everything.”

It certainly does for the \$25,000 Giller Prize, Canada's richest award for literary fiction and Rabinovitch's brainchild. From 1972 until her death from lung cancer in 1993, Doris Giller, a longtime book editor in Montreal and Toronto and a larger-than-life figure in literary Canada, was married to Rabinovitch. For months after Giller's death, he cut about for a fitting memorial to his beloved wife. Then it came to him one morning, “a shivers kind of thing,” Rabinovitch recalls—an annual prize for the year's best book of Canadian fiction. And he would do it right.

He flew to his home town of Montreal to consult with an old friend, Mordecai Richler. Within weeks, the basic rules were in place. To maintain suspense, a jury of three eminent literary personalities would make their choice at the last possible moment—and tell no one beforehand. (Even Rabinovitch, who wants five cheques in advance for the finalists, a kept in the dark. “I feel like I'm saving \$100,000 when I get to rip up four of them,” he jokes.)

The winner is announced at a lavish black-tie dinner—produced and followed by an open bar—attended by hundreds of writers, publishers, bookstores and media. And Rabinovitch, who made his fortune from apartment buildings and an early investment in cable TV, pays for it all. From Day 1, literary Canada sensed the Giller resurgence with both hands. The financial impact has been immense—the winner's sales have doubled and even tripled overnight. Bonnie Burnard's *A Good*



Jack Rabinovitch, by Phil Snel, at home in Toronto

Jack Rabinovitch

“The 10-per-cent rule
makes a difference in
absolutely everything”

How appeared on the Maclean's best-seller list at the No. 1 spot the week after the novel won the prize last month. But equally important in turning the Giller into the hottest ticket in Canada is the huge morale boost it gives a community that has often felt penny-pinched, belittled and deprived of a forum to celebrate its achievements.

Rabinovitch is justifiably proud of what he has wrought: “I keep telling people,” says the developer, who has three grown daughters from his first marriage, “that you have to balance your financial account, what you need to send your kids through school, with your psychic income, what you do for

fun and to make a difference.” But he still professes himself somewhat complacent by all the Giller fuss. “I thought I'd give this prize in memory of my wife and throw a party to celebrate. That seemed straightforwardly Montrealish to me, but it seemed to amuse them here in Toronto.” And Doris, so passionate about literature and invention about everything else—what would she have thought of the prize that she inspired? Jack Rabinovitch smiles and replies without hesitation. “She would have given a her highest prize, ‘Not bad.’”

Debra Rothman

THERE ARE ALLEGATORS SLITHERING through the sluggish Florida river and Caroline Brunet, as she has since she was 11, is paddling for her life. Not that she fears the gators' bite. "They are so afraid of us as we are of them," she says with a broad grin as she drifts towards shore in a kayak she can propel faster than any woman in the world. But the capped 50-year-old from Lac Beauport, Que., smiles in crystal clear that, in her paddling for a living, has nothing to do with fear. It is about being the best. "I never fell in love with kayaking as much as I did with winning my first race in a kayak," Brunet says matter-of-factly at her winter training camp. "I'm driven by the desire to know exactly how far I can get, by how good I can be."

Right now, she has staged on the tip of her world. Since winning silver at the 1996 Atlanta Games, Brunet has moved up to dominate her sport. She was gold in all three individual distance events at last summer's world championships in Milan, Italy; the second time she has made a clean sweep in a world championship. And as she prepares for her fourth Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia, next year ("I'm pretty much part of the Olympic scene by now," she jokes), Brunet is the paddler to beat.

Other kayakers marred at Brunet's unflinching commitment to a winter training regimen in a sport with a low Canadian profile and few apparent commercial payoffs. "Swimmers describe her as the most focused athlete they know, able to get inside the demands of media, sponsors and even family to be ready to race," Brunet laughs off suggestions she has sacrificed the normal joys of youth to her quest for Olympic gold ("I do have a personal life outside paddling," she says, rattling enthusiastically about her 34-year-old Norwegian boyfriend and men's Olympic kayak champion, Knut Holmannsen). But when she paddles up to a starting line, Brunet says the main thing that "physically, I'm the best-paddled athlete there."

That will to win was evident even as a young child. "When I was 3 or 4, my mother was telling my parents how competitive I was," she says. Brunet admits her chosen sport could as easily have been downhill skiing had she won her first race on a hill. Instead, that first success came on the water in a club competition at age 11, and Brunet has methodically climbed her sport's ladder ever since.

Sydney may be the final rung. Brunet speaks brightly of a post-competitive life of having children, of making her winter existence for her home in Quebec's Laurentians Mountains—"of leading a more normal life." She is tired of the constant pain from sporting injuries, especially the golf-ball-sized mass of scar tissue in her buttocks from the constant friction between bone and muscle while paddling. "It is painful for me to sit in a normal chair, and it is very uncomfortable to sit in the boat," she says. "After years of paddling, my butt is worn out." She has no plans to paddle for pleasure when her race days are done. The fastest female kayaker does not even own a recreational kayak. She was paddling with the whales on the St. Lawrence River last summer and got soaked, she explains, a bluish ring, under her Florida sun. Then she's off with a delicate dip of her paddle into the still river, water flicking away into the late afternoon light, the drops sparkling like gold.

Bruce Wallace

Caroline Brunet



*"I'm driven
by the desire to
know exactly how
good I can be."*

*Caroline Brunet by Phil Sord
in Sydney, Harbor Beach, Fla.*

Raymond Moriyama

FROM THE AGE OF 5, Raymond Moriyama knew he was going to be an architect. Convinced from a stove-top accident that left his upper body badly burned, he spent eight months in bed watching a building go up across the street from his Vancouver home and realizing that some things in life are actually planned. But it wasn't until he was 13 that he built his first structure—a tree house by the Skeena River in south-central British Columbia—and an circumstances that would change his sense of the world. This was 1963. Moriyama's father, after 20 years in Canada, had been taken away by the Mounties to an internment camp in central Ontario. Raymond, his younger sister and mother were subsequently banished to a similar camp near Skeena. Other Japanese-Canadians at the camp mocked him because of his scars. Strong feelings of grief, anger and contradiction welled up inside. "I remember telling my mother," he says now, "that I felt my own community was a bigger enemy than my country." To get it out, he escaped to his hiding place by the river, to beak alone, to observe from a distance, and to develop a potent mix of humility and social justice.

A private man, spiritual—and a great storyteller—Moriyama wants his buildings to evoke these same qualities. And they certainly can be found—in the slow dance of the setting sun along the curved museum wall in the Saudi Arabian desert or in the gateade of the Canadian ambassador's office in Tokyo, tucked away under slapping cool rafters like a high-tech tree house. All private vows, even in the most common of settings.

Then, too, there is the clever hairy-bully of the Ontario Science Centre, Canada—maybe the world's—first hands-on museum when it opened in 1969. Tens of thousands of school kids romping happily through its airy levels and the bowels of discovery made Moriyama's reputation, while still in his 30s, as an upholder of tradition. That same classroom is based across town at the recently completed Science Centre building at Toronto's York University. The entrance opens onto a huge sea of students and computers as if on display in a store window. It is a place where young minds rub nectly against the hum of technology. "You see that," chuckles a mischievous Moriyama looking on, "no big-bodied Einstein going 'Shhhhh'."

Can you call a 70-year-old man with an arsenal of penurious design awards (and no desire to slow his pace) an icon? In a 41-year career that has taken him all over the globe and transformed his adopted city of Toronto with churches, schools, museums and a 286-busway too, Moriyama has defied all other labels. His work does not flow from any one identifiable school and he rejects utterly the idea of a signature. "I tell my team we are the moon, not the sun," he says. "We take the light from others and throw it back." Helping him choose it back now are two sons, Jason and Ayon—the youngest of his five children with childhood sweetheart Sachie—who have become partners in the firm. This way the embled lessons of an extraordinary life will continue to be built in stone and glass. When he learned from his first tree house, Moriyama says, "is that society is not reliable, it is easily swept," and that buildings, too, don't last forever. But they can be ideal places for observation, for letting old wounds heal. The best even work at the sun.

"We take the
light from
others and
throw it back"

Raymond Moriyama,
by Peter Szego, at his
Toronto office

Robert Sheppard

Lesley Sacouman

EMOTIONAL SHADOWS OF THE DEAD and the despair linger as Sister Lesley Sacouman takes a visitor on a tour of her home zone in Winnipeg's gritty North End. Several of the houses along Ross Avenue—including the former punker's haven next door to where Sacouman and two fellow nuns reside—are boarded up and abandoned, a sad legacy of the street-gang violence that has plagued the area in recent years. For Sacouman, who has spent long, arduous nights watching teenagers square off with baseball bats in her backyard and listening to gunfire ring through the neighbourhood, there are reminders of tragedy everywhere. She points to four houses where residents have taken their own lives and another across the back alley where a murder-suicide occurred. "That's all in the last 10 years," she observes. "Life is very fragile here."

Fragile, yes, but not hopeless—thanks in no small measure to the efforts of Sister Lesley, as she is known among North Enders. For more than two decades, Sacouman has worked at Rosbrook House, a drop-in centre and alternative school program for inner-city youth founded by Sister Geraldine MacNorton and a group of street kids in 1976. Since MacNorton's death from cancer in 1984, Sacouman has served as Rosbrook's co-director in the former United Church located on the same ravaged street where she doggedly chooses to live. For local youth—the vast majority of them Aboriginal—Rosbrook provides an alternative to street gangs and chaotic family lives. Its school programs, with about 75 students from Grades 1 through 12, help bring chronic truants back to the classrooms. The Rosbrook motto is simple, yet eloquent: "No child who does not want to be alone, should ever have to be."

At 54, Sacouman looks at least a decade younger, her piercing blue eyes and quick smile amply to whet French describe as her indomitable spirit. After graduating from high school, the Winnipeg native joined the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, a religious community that focuses on education and the poor, which is where she met MacNorton. Rosbrook took shape after the two nuns moved to the inner city in 1971. Soon enough, young people were dropping by and so, says Sacouman with a laugh, "we brought what every good convent needs—a pool table." As they heard more about the children's troubled lives, the sisters recognized the need for a full-time, longstanding facility where youngsters could socialize and be treated with respect. Originally, Rosbrook served kids between 14 and 17, but, incredibly, it has lately attracted walk-ins as young as 3, a development Sacouman describes as "simply scary."

Sacouman sees her work as a logical application of her faith. "It's not a job, it's my life," she says. And despite the hardships she witnesses daily, Sacouman says she has only once bordered on despair. That was a few years ago, when the gang violence on her block was at its worst and she couldn't sleep at night. Sacouman remembers thinking: "I can't do this anymore, I have to leave. But then I realized, yes, I do have the assurance to get away, but the people I know and love don't have that option." Sister Lesley persisted, and Winnipeg's innermost streets are a little less daunting because of her devotion.

Brian Bergman

"It's not a job; it's my life"

Lesley Sacouman, by Dave Collins, while visiting her brother in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley

Colin Stewart

IN THE EARLY DAYS OF SEPTEMBER, as the Indonesian military and rampaging pro-Jakarta militias drew the noose ever tighter around the UN compound in the East Timorese capital of Dili, Colin Stewart might have been forgiven for wanting nothing more than to escape. The city beset around him, fellow UN staff had been attacked, local employees had been killed. The camp was overrun by some 1,500 refugees—and food and water were running short. For many, evacuation seemed the only prudent course. “There was a sense that they would keep ratcheting the cage until we left,” says Stewart, 38, a former Canadian foreign service officer who served in Jakarta from 1992 to 1995.

Finally, in spite of promises to the East Timorese that the United Nations would not abandon them after their initial massive vote in favour of independence—which sparked the terror and killings—the United Nations finally decided it had to pull out. Stewart and many of his colleagues were appalled that the international community would leave the people of East Timor at their hour of greatest need. “We were extremely disappointed by this decision—we were quite shaken,” he recalls now. Stewart and a handful of his colleagues were ultimately able to convince senior UN officials that some people should stay behind. So when the final Hercules transport plane left, Stewart and 10 others stood on the tarmac watching it take off. “There was no question in my mind that I would stay,” he says.

As Stewart talks about those September days, it is clear that he remained out of a sense of duty to a people he had grown to love—and to respect—for their unrelenting determination to be free of Indonesia, which greeted the former Portuguese colony in 1975. For all the attention that moved for justice, behind it was a symbolic presence until the peacekeepers came six days later. Stewart says his was really a bit role. “It’s not about me,” he insists. “It’s about the suffering, and the courage, of the East Timorese people.”

While Stewart’s roots may be back in Canada—in Ottawa where he was born and raised, and in Vancouver where he worked for a land developer before coming to Dili in May—his heart now is in Timor. After UN peacekeepers arrived, he returned to Vancouver, gave up his apartment overlooking English Bay, and came back to work for the United Nations. “I am exactly where I want to be,” says Stewart, who is responsible for relations between the United Nations and local political groups. “Once you get to East Timor, it gets under your skin.”

Stewart, who is single, readily left Vancouver when the United Nations began recruiting in the spring for its mission to supervise the Aug. 30 independence referendum. Now that peace has returned to East Timor, he has the time to take a late-afternoon stroll through a residential neighbourhood at the base of the hills overlooking the UN compound. The road runs past burned-out houses with the tin stolen off the roofs, but there is more than just devastation. The street echoes now with the sounds of children playing, the sounds of bananers and other reconstruction. Indonesian troops have finally left and the United Nations is overseeing East Timor’s transition to independence. There are smiles again in Dili. Colin Stewart is a contented man.

‘It’s about the suffering, and the courage, of the East Timorese people’

Colin Stewart, by Warren Caragana, in Dili

Warren Caragana

EVEN ON A QUIET DAY, the busy waiting room at a Montreal community health centre bristles with activity. People from the multiethnic Côte-des-Neiges neighbourhood file in and out at a medical-saddler's whetstone at his mother's feet. Nearby, Dr. Vania Jimenez-Sigoun, 54, is supervising medical residents. When she spots an infant in an examining room, her eyes fix on the baby: "Isn't he a darling?" exclaims Jimenez-Sigoun, who admits she is "addicted to babies and children." After 27 years as a doctor, her passion for children—and her profession—spills forth with the zeal of a medical student. Her dedication hasn't gone unnoticed. In May, the College of Family Physicians of Canada named her its physician of the year. "I said, 'Why on earth not?'" recalls Jimenez-Sigoun. "To reward me for something that I love doing, what's the point?"

Jimenez-Sigoun felt her calling early in life. Born and raised in Egypt by parents of Armenian origin, she remembers as a girl being struck by a photo of German physician doctor Albert Schweitzer caring for a small African child. What caught her attention, Jimenez-Sigoun recalls, was the "warmth and the tenderness in the eyes and the marginal current that was passing between these two human beings. I thought that's what I want to do in life." She left Cairo in 1964 at age 18 for Montreal to attend McGill University and its medical school. During her studies, Jimenez-Sigoun married and had two children. Then in 1973, she set up a family practice in St-Curs, about an hour's drive east of Montreal, where she worked for 13 years. Her marriage ended early in that period, and with her current husband, Lucien Sigoun, Jimenez-Sigoun moved to Montreal and started working at the Côte-des-Neiges clinic in 1986, developing its family medicine program.

Her caseload ranges from the affluent to refugee war-torn victims, and in a practice that serves people from more than 150 countries, Jimenez-Sigoun agrees that speaking five languages—Armenian, Arabic and Spanish, as well as French and

Vania Jimenez-Sigoun

English—helps. "Whatever the language, she tries to communicate a relationship based on trust. 'It's really at the core of what a family doctor is all about,'" she says. "It's the idea that I'm there for them when they need me."

Jimenez-Sigoun also teaches family medicine residents and conducts research at McGill. She rarely has time for lunch in her cluttered office where pictures of her children—six girls and one boy aged 10 to 29—line the wall. Still, for a working mother with a demanding job, Jimenez-Sigoun looks remarkably unfrazzled. She credits the help of her parents, retired teachers in Montreal, and her "unusually supportive" husband, who moved early from Hydris Quebec. "He's always doing somebody somewhere," she says with a smile. In her cluttered spare time, Jimenez-Sigoun enjoys photography and writing fiction. "My energy comes from my family," she says.

For Jimenez-Sigoun, her work is based on the credo that doctors should be aware of the special role they play in patients' lives. "Frequently, we have access to life, death, emotions—the really important things," she says, her hands in constant motion illustrating the point. "It's an amazing privilege."

David Bruneau



"I'm there for
them when they
need me"

Vania Jimenez-Sigoun,
by Pierre-Paul Proulx,
at home in Montreal

This Hour Has 22 Minutes

THURSDAY, 11:30 A.M.—precisely 1,590 minutes before *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* is taped in front of a Halifax audience—and things are not going well at the script read-through. Co-host Greg Thorneycroft, 37, mistakes the Gungah (lap bear) and anguishes he was wearing moments earlier, is trying to figure out how to wing laughs from behind film footage of the Governor General's literary awards ceremony. A hard-looking Rick Mercer, 30, wants to work out the details of the Jeremy Bond Canadian CSIS Superspy skit he has to shoot in a couple of hours. Mary Walsh, 47, who originally hatched the idea for an ensemble comedy series built around the week's news, is shuddering through a parody of Dr. Laura Schlesinger, the family values American radio host. A producer wants to know the whereabouts of Cathy Jones, 44, who still has to shoot her monologue as Joe Crow, the sapid naive elder, at a Halifax park. "It's controlled chaos," Mark Farrell, the show's creative producer, explains when the meeting breaks up.

Yet, somehow, side-splittingly funny results emerge week in and week out. None of the four Newfoundland-born cast members really thought the show would last beyond the six pilot episodes that aired in 1993. That was before the joint production of Halifax-based Salter Street Films and the CBC won cult status—and then became a prime-time hit. Every Monday at 8 p.m. (8:30 in Newfoundland), two million Canadians watch the show, which this year snagged three Gemini awards making a total of 14 since its inception. "When we started, Preston Manning's guys were threatening to sue us," notes Mercer, who turned a collection of his 22 *Minutes* editorial riffs or "sermons" into a best-seller of the same title. "Now, they call us up trying to get him on the show."

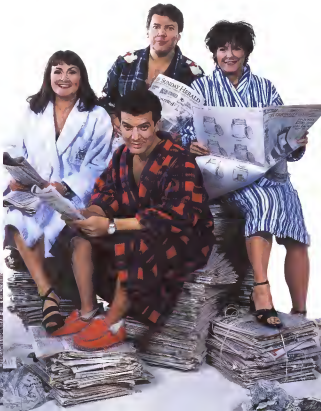
An appearance on 22 *Minutes*—unscripted as it might be—is just the thing to humanize a politician or public figure: Mercer, in his newsman persona of J. B. Dickson, has lunched in Harvey's with Jean Chrétien; Thorneycroft has submitted to celebrity headshots by a long list of heavy hitters including former U.S. chairman of the joint chiefs of staff Colin Powell, Walsh, as character is the outspoken Marg Delahunty or as the outrageous Marg, Princess Warrior, has skewered everyone from Garth Brooks to Mike Harris. "What I like about the show is not so much the edginess of the material, but the eagerness of production," says Walsh. "The way we do it on the run, in a situation where anything can happen."

Even though the show now has three full-time writers, the cast members still pen much of their own material. The stars say that makes for long, nerve-racking weeks. "It's crazy," says Jones, who, like Walsh, got her start 20 years ago with the award-winning COOCO comedy troupe. "Every year, you wonder whether you can do it again." Truth is, they are all workaholics who keep busy in the off-season with independent performing careers.

With time, it seems inevitable that someone will burn out from the hectic pace, or leave for other reasons. But nobody is talking about that now. "These are the Oscar times," says Thorneycroft, who has also won acclaim as a dramatic actor. "Even though you know that someday it has to go poof." Then, he has to excuse himself. There is a show to get out. At 22 *Minutes*, the clock is always ticking.

'We do it on the run in a situation where anything can happen'

Clockwise from left: Mary Walsh, Greg Thorneycroft, Cathy Jones and Rick Mercer, by Dan Colton, in Halifax



Lynton (Red) Wilson

LYNTON (RED) WILSON WAS a fish-faced grad of 22 when, armed with a BA from Hamilton's McMaster University, he moved to Ottawa and joined the foreign service. It was 1962, the height of the Cold War, and Wilson was eager to go overseas. His father, however, was sorely disappointed. The plant superintendent of a Port Colborne, Ont., flour mill, Ronald Wilson never could bring himself to view public service as an honourable calling. "He was a blinking manufacturing guy," Red Wilson recalls. "He thought I was wasting my time studying economics and history—and it was too bad I hadn't thought about working in business."

Had Ronald Wilson enjoyed a longer life—he died the following year of heart failure, at age 67—he might have been astonished by his son's progress. The idealistic young man who opted for the civil service over business is now one of Canada's most respected business leaders—a former senior executive of MacMillan Bloedel Ltd., Redpath Industries Ltd., the Bank of Nova Scotia, and the current Toronto-based chairman of BCE Inc., parent of Bell Canada and high-tech powerhouse Nortel Networks Corp. If corporate Canada has a face, it arguably belongs to Red Wilson.

Naturally, all those years in the upper ranks of blue-chip Canadian corporations have given Wilson, 59, a wide and highly influential network of friends and associates. The experience has also afforded him a valuable perspective on the country's strengths and weaknesses in an era of rapid globalization. Recently, Wilson combined those two elements in a unique project: a private fund-raising drive to encourage the teaching and learning of Canadian history. Launched with \$500,000 of his own money, the campaign has since won support from many of the country's wealthiest companies and individuals. Thanks to a matching grant from the Charles R. Broadbent Foundation (to a maximum of \$25 million), the foundation—recently named *Historica*—is on its way to reaching its \$50-million goal. "My original idea was to put in a small contribution and then look at who else might be interested," Wilson says. "I had no idea how big it would become."

Why the focus on history? For one, Wilson is uneasy over the declining emphasis on Canadian history in the nation's classrooms. His own three children, now in their 20s, attended public and private schools in Ontario but never gained more than a superficial understanding of Canadian history. "Most of what they were learning was related to specific episodes or themes—the role of women in society, for example, or aboriginal issues," explains Wilson, relaxing in his rambling penthouse overlooking Lake Ontario that he shares with his wife of 31 years, Brenda. "Those are important, but what was missing was an understanding of how this country came to be, why we are organized as a federation, and what role the British and French and other European nations had in all this."

Also, as a business leader, Wilson is acutely aware of the challenges Canada faces in its economic sovereignty. As BCE chairman, he was recently involved with the sale of 20 per cent of Bell Canada to Chicago-based Ameritech Corp. Wilson is cautious that the partnership is essential to secure Bell's future in a fast-changing industry, but he's also the first to acknowledge that the pressure for such alliances highlights the need to preserve a unique Canadian identity. "We're losing our sense of how great this country is, and how it came to be great," he says. "If you don't know where you came from, how do you know where you belong?"

Ross Lowe



'We're losing our sense of how great this country is'

Lynton (Red) Wilson,
by Peter Stibbold, as seen
in *Calville*, Ont.

RUTH GOLDBLOOM MAY BE a short, slightly built, 75-year-old grandmother, but her power to replace an legendary St. Louis hockey player and that quality firsthand memory when they wandered into Halifax Pier 21, the dilapidated old immigration shed that has been transformed into a national shrine thanks largely to Goldbloom's fund raising abilities. Technically, the building was closed, but the bubbly grandmother, who happened to be there on other business, insisted on giving them a tour of the imaginative high-tech facility that captures the anxiety and joy of the immigrant experience. Along the way, they heard touching stories of weary refugees, frightened war evacuees and hopeful immigrants who saw Canada there for the first time—and of the painful scenes when they were sent years later to the place where their new lives began. "This is a country of immigrants," said Goldbloom, herself the daughter of Russian immigrants, "but we've never really paid tribute to them." At the end, the hockey players fled solemnly out. But they stopped long enough to shove a few dollars they had intended to spend at the nearest pub into the Pier 21 Society's donation bin.

Making Pier 21 happen is the crowning achievement for a woman with a lifelong penchant for doing good works—and a gift for talking people out of their money. The idea of building a museum to commemorate the pay shed through which 1.5 million immigrants passed from 1928 through 1971 has been around for years. But the project only took off when Goldbloom became president of the Pier 21 Society in 1993. "I went into high gear," says Goldbloom, who, after a lifetime of volunteerism, has contacts in political, business and social circles from coast to coast. "I criticized the country making war the way of Pier 21 got out." Along the way, she managed to convert a range of heavyweight contributors—including Chrysler Canada, Toronto developer Rudy Barry and Montreal industrialist Charles Bronfman—so her cause took form. Just a month before the exhibition was slated to open, an anonymous Oregon benefactor gave \$100,000, allowing the foundation to hire a \$9-million expert, half of which came from the municipal, provincial and federal governments.

Goldbloom got an early start helping people. As a five-year-old, she scribbled dancing and melting poetry at community fund-raisers in New Waterford, the gritty Cape Breton mining town where she was born and her family owned a dry-goods store. After attending Mount Allison University in Sackville, N.B., and McGill, she stayed in Montreal where she taught physical education and married pediatrician Richard Goldbloom. While raising three children, she found time for extensive community work. In fact, Goldbloom attended to our back on the heavy load of volunteerism when she and her family moved to Halifax in 1967. "This amounted to projects that have a human dimension to them," she says. "When something like this comes along, I just can't help myself." Thank goodness, Pier 21 might well be a duty memory rather than a striking nightmare to the past.

John DeMont

Ruth Goldbloom



"This is a country
of immigrants"

Ruth Goldbloom, by Dan Collis,
near Pier 21, Halifax

PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED on one living-room wall of Rev. Dale and Diane Lang's home in Tiber, Alta., is a blown-up photograph of their son Jason—the same picture that was splashed across the front pages of newspapers and on the cover of this magazine last spring. But it hardly requires a photograph to feel the presence—or, more to the point, the absence—of the 17-year-old boy who was shot to death by a fellow student at Tiber's W.R. Myers High School on April 26. "You think about the fact that he's not here every day," says Dale Lang quietly. "You can't escape that." Diane Lang nods her head in the direction of the front door. "You will expect," she says, "to see him walk through there and around the corner."

Coming just eight days after two teenage boys killed 12 students and one teacher at Columbine High School near Denver, the tragedy in Tiber startled Canadians. Suddenly, the violence was far too close to home. The next morning, Dale's brief prepared statement, broadcast live across the country, struck a chord. After recalling his son as "a very fine young man who loved life," a sad-eyed Lang, who has served as minister at Tiber's only Anglican church for the past 12 years, said his family also grieved for "the sad case of a 16-year-old boy who could come to such a place as randomly taking another person's life for no reason. May God have mercy on this broken society and all the hurting people in it."

Lang took a similarly compassionate stance when he spoke at Jason's memorial service, and when W.R. Myers reopened its doors a week after the shooting, both he and Diane went at the front door to greet and hug students—a move that the school's principal, Don Gellert, credits with helping to relieve the anxiety many felt about returning to class. In the months since, Dale, 48, has accepted invitations to talk at schools, churches and even violence conferences from Fredericton to Victoria. Recalling that his son killed two teenage girls, who in turn swam with risk-endowed schoolyard teasing and bullying, Lang speaks of the need for everyone—but especially the young—to take to heart the biblical dictum to "love thy neighbour as thyself." At the same time, Diane Lang, 47, has more work to do: the mother of the second. "I see her as someone who is really hurting," says Diane. "My heart cries out for her—and for him."

In an age when victims of violence typically seek retribution, if not revenge, the Langs' merciful response strikes many as puzzling. Diane concludes that dear lack of anger is "not only a natural reaction." The Calgary natives—who first met 32 years ago when they performed in the same high-school play—say the explanation lies in their deep faith in God. For Dale, at least, it wasn't always like this. Raised in a non-religious home, the former plumber agreed, at Diane's request, to be baptized shortly after the birth of the first of their five children in 1977—even though he remained a non-believer. It was only later, after much soul-searching, that Dale says he decided, "Jesus really was who he said he was." In 1984, he entered the seminary. "That relationship with God," he says, "is what changed me and made it possible to forgive this boy."

But all the faith in the world cannot take away the pain. "I know I will hurt over the loss of Jason until the day I die," says Dale, wiping tears from his eyes as his wife gently squeezes his shoulder. "It's a life sentence."

Brian Bergman



"You still expect to see him walk through there and around the corner"

Diane and Dale Lang, by Todd Koppel, at their church in Tiber

Pierre Berton

FOR A MAN SO DEVOTED to life in the past, Pierre Berton keeps a sharp eye on the future. Last February, the author, feeling tired, took a friend's advice and went to Cuba for a holiday. On his first day he fell ill and was diagnosed with congestive heart failure. After being down hours by emergency charter aircraft, he spent two weeks in hospital and lost almost 20 kg. But when Berton, now 79, began to feel better, he says he immediately spent \$2,000 on "extremely good wine" because "it's always important to plan ahead." Then, he mounted work on his 47th book, *Morling or to War*, a history of Canada's involvement in war that crisscrossed 700,000 words written, Berton expects to finish in January, 2001. After that, he says, "We'll see what happens."

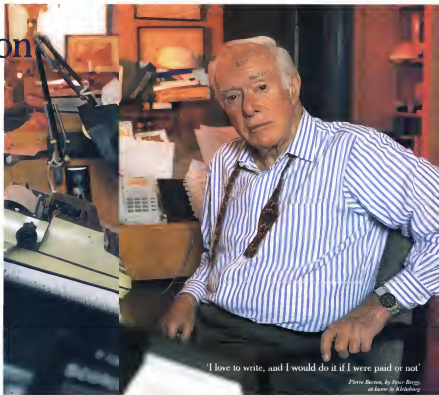
For Berton, who can alternately be described as a writer, historian, journalist, multimedia personality and all-round larger-than-life character, that could be almost anything. The heart troubles and doctors have slowed him, as he now relies on a cane to support his six-foot, three-inch frame. But his intellect and enthusiasm are undiminished, and he remains one of Canada's best-selling, most prolific authors. In the past year, he produced two books—*Pierre Berton's Canada* and *Witness to the 21st Century*. Both reflect on the relationships among Canadians, the past and the land. Although he once—paraphrasing *Satanstoe* and *John Jay*—caustically suggested "anyone who doesn't write for money is a blockhead," Berton adds, seriously, "I love to write, and I would do it if I were paid or not."

In fact, Berton is that street of extrinsic: a Canadian author who has made millions from book sales and related projects such as television mini-series. Born in the Yukon, he always knew he wanted to write. He wrote his first book in 1954 and, he says, "became famous slowly" in subsequent years through radio and TV work, opinion columns, reporting for newspapers and *Maclean's*—and a steady stream of books. In a country where books that sell 5,000 copies are considered a success, some of his—such as *Klondike*, his account of the Yukon gold rush—have sold more than 150,000.

Married to the former James Walker for 55 years, Berton is father to eight children—and grandfather to 13. They all can often be found on weekends at the sprawling family home in Kleinburg, Ont., where Berton's friends make fun of his foibles. He still writes on an electric Smith-Corona typewriter model that was discontinued years ago—so he hoards a stock of seven similar ones in case of breakdown. His long-time business controller, Elia Frutkin, describes him as "indefatigably the world's worst driver"—and Berton responds, "This is a reply put out by my wife and others who drive with me often."

On the professional front, Berton agrees with those who note his ability to recycle the same material in many forms. At his multimedia peak, Berton would take an item he researched for a column, turn it into a radio commentary, discuss it on his TV show and work it into a book that would then be made into a documentary. Says Berton, chuckling, "There are a lot of different ways to look at the same events in Canadian history." And, thanks to Berton's devotion to the field and his grand old style, millions of Canadians have taken the trouble to do so.

Anthony Wilton-Smith



Pierre Berton, by Peter Brown,
at home in Kleinburg

End of the line at Montreux

Dec. 2, 1994. The staff of Vancouver's famed Montreux clinic for eating disorders gathers at Vin Savio, a trendy downtown bistro. After a sanguine meal and several bottles of flat wine, they tune their attention to a big-screen TV and ABC's 20/20 newsmagazine show, which devotes its whole hour to a laudatory report on the clinic and its founder, Peggy Claude-Pierre. The broadcaster that night, Guy Foubert, is so impressed with what she sees that a year and a half later she goes to work at the clinic. Then, six months after that, she has changed her mind—and files

An investigator tells the famed clinic for eating disorders to shut its doors

the first complaint against the clinic, alleging mistreatment of patients.

Fast-forward to a crowded room in Victoria's Ocean Pointe Resort Hotel last week. Bitterly disappointed, the Montreux management is holding a news conference extended—an roughly equal numbers—by reporters and Montreux loyalists. When Claude-Pierre enters the room looking drained, her supporters rise to applaud. At the podium, she utters just two sentences: "Thank you for your interest. It saddens us greatly that human life is involved by the political process." She is referring to the announcement one hour earlier by regional medical health officer Dr. Richard Starwick that her clinic's license had been cancelled, effective Jan. 31.

When she sits Montreux spokeswoman and former patient Calista Strickland reads a prepared statement calling the investigations and hearing that led to the decision a "travesty" and "inquisitorial-like."

The clinic portrays the situation as a

fight between traditional medicine and its alternative treatment. But Starwick, who heard 47 women representing both sides in 26 days of hearings in May and July, says that is far from the case. There have been two investigations, he notes, and neither uncovered much middle ground. Supporters called Claude-Pierre a "triple whammy" who "could children" who was certain to die. Starwick, however, sided with critics who accused the clinic of endangering patients, withholding information from health authorities, physically restraining and force-feeding some patients contrary to health regulations, verbally chastising other patients and preventing some from leaving the facility.

One parent who testified on the clinic's behalf was adamant that Claude-Pierre saved his daughter's life, and he didn't care if the clinic some rules doing it. Besides being a parent, Dr. Edward Feller is also a gastroenterologist and a teacher at Brown University School of Medicine in Rhode Island.

Starwick says he was moved by the "passionate support of patients and their families" for Montreux. But he contends that the clinic did not just break rigid bureaucratic rules. Starwick, a pediatrician, says the case of "Idle David Bruce" represents much of what went wrong at Montreux. David's worried mother took him to Montreux from New York City when he was three years old. Declaring him to be suffering from anorexia nervosa, Claude-Pierre decided to treat him as Montreux and separate him from his mother for much of the following 14 months—despite being unlicensed to treat any patient under the age of 19. Furthermore, Claude-Pierre put



The Victoria clinic; Claude-Pierre force-feeding, starves

David in the care of a young, severely ill anorexic patient named Lucy.

That was too much for Vancouver child psychiatrist Dr. Geoffrey Attenworth. "Just common sense," he said. "Tells you that separating a child for long periods from his mother is not acceptable." And for Lucy, the critics noted that she was sexually and given to self-harm. It was clear, and Starwick, that taking care of David—often a difficult child—put enormous pressure on Lucy. At one point, she raised in her journal, "How long do you get for aggravated murder (and believe me it's VERY aggravated murder)? How long is life? Do they mean life or is it just 25 years?"

Professionals in the field of eating disorders have frequently complained of the lack of follow-up studies on Montreux's patients. Claude-Pierre's husband and Montreux co-founder, David Harris, told last week's news conference that just such a study is under way and could take up to a year to produce results. But one key result is in: unless Starwick's ruling is overturned on appeal, the Montreux clinic is out of business. There was some speculation that, with regulations requiring a license for any clinic treating more than two patients, Montreux might try to stay in business with just one or two at a time in the main clinic or in any of its numerous affiliate facilities around the city. Starwick, however, says his judgment rules out that possibility. Another option for Claude-Pierre: simply moving her operations out of the province.

Patrick Corbett in Victoria

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Ann Dowsett Johnston

Chalk one up for brain gain

It was a simple weekday cocktail party, not like countless others held on a regular basis at the massive Roseville residence of the president of the University of Toronto. But last Tuesday's event had unusual significance—for both invited guests and those beyond. After months of speculation, and a search that left more than one senior member of his team flummoxed, Robert Prichard was welcoming a high-profile crowd inside Highland Avenue residence in an exclusive neighbourhood. As white-shirted waiters passed trays of sushi, Prichard stood at the head of the receiving line beside a tall, lanky figure with an infectious Jimmy Stewart grin. Here, for everyone's viewing, was Robert Biggs, dean of science at the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology, sporting a U of T tie. Forty years after he first enrolled at Toronto on a full scholarship, Biggs had agreed to assume the leadership of his class master as of July 1, 2008—a self-confessed prodigal son. "After years in the wilderness," he joked, "I have finally wandered home."

Some wilderness. In the 36 years since Bob Biggs came left Canada, he has distinguished himself as a brilliant physicist and much-published scholar. But according to Wendy Cecil-Godwin, chairwoman of the search committee, it was his record as an administrator that won her attention—specifically, Biggs' role in commissioning an investigation into discrimination against women in the sciences at MIT. When senior female faculty approached him in 1994, Biggs was fought on their behalf. The final report, released in March, resulted in an extraordinary admission on the part of MIT: confessing pervasive discrimination. "It's unusual to find an administrator who is willing to take on something that is so potentially explosive," says Nancy Hopkins, a prominent molecular biologist at MIT. "Bob has a strong sense of right and wrong, and excellent political skills. It's a great catch for Canada."

As the entire academic community wrestles with the reality of female discrimination, the University of Toronto is belling Biggs' appointment as "brain gain"—and rightly so. Strategically, this is a critical move for Canada's largest university, at a critically important juncture. With an endowment of more than \$1 billion, Toronto is uniquely positioned to step itself with the best research universities in the world.

By all accounts, it was no mean feat to persuade the Toronto-born Biggs to leave what he calls "one of the

best jobs in the world." At 57, he has already turned down the opportunity to lead several American universities. In making his decision, Biggs contacted a raft of academics who had left Toronto for prominent posts in the States. Most declared that they would love to return, if the pay in salary and research support could be closed. Can he close the gap? "In many ways," says Biggs, "that now defines my job."

Over the next 36 years, the new president's primary goal will be to change one proved word in U of T's mission statement: "If I am successful," says Biggs, "Toronto will be seen not just as an internationally aggressive research university, but as an unusually leading one." In facing that means replicating his pattern at MIT: 90 per cent of his new faculty were in their 20s and 30s—the age when "people do their Nobel Prize-winning work." In terms of funding and philosophy, he will push hard. "Great universities make fundamentally important contributions to the private sector," says Biggs. "There are many millionaires who make my job forward to contribute."



Biggs: Prichard's successor

While Biggs comes from a private university, it is arguably a fiercely focused one: the large proportion of MIT's funding comes from Washington. "The U.S. government underwrites explicitly that the current bundle of the university is a direct result of its investment in research. That relationship needs to be fully understood."

This week, a star performer on Prichard's team, and a clear contender for his position, will make exactly that case to the Ontario government. Heather Marone-Bloom, vice president of research and international relations, will present her major report on research and innovation to the Ontario government, a detailed blueprint for strategic investment. In doing so, she will draw essential cross-border comparisons in research investment, helping to set the stage for future prosperity in this province—perhaps beyond.

Such strategic focus has been emblematic of the Prichard plan. In a decade of vicious cutbacks and restructuring, the current president has repositioned and reinvigorated the University of Toronto. It is now up to Bob Biggs to build on that achievement in what, by all rights, should be a much more generous climate. If he is successful in taking the university to new heights—on a par with Oxford or Berkeley—Biggs will prove to be, as Nancy Hopkins foresees, a catch not just for Toronto, but for Canada as well. Stay tuned.



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Reach for the Top

Two international programs offer high-school students a passport to opportunity

By John Schofield

Stefan Atkinson is up a Harvard high. It seems by League life spent with the whip-smart son of celebrity economist Sherry Cooper and her entrepreneur husband, Lloyd Atkinson. Only months into the experience, the 19-year-old graduate of Toronto's top Upper Canada College is already playing for the Harvard rugby team, has performed a solo in a campus production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and is maintaining an A average, despite an enormous workload. The secret to his success? Atkinson credits much of it to UCC's International Baccalaureate program, an intensive, and often exhausting, high-school curriculum with a worldwide reputation for excellence. At public and private schools across Canada, thousands of students are lining up to pursue the same path, with hopes of finding the IB program or its better-known counterpart, advanced placement, to win entry to some of the world's top universities. "It worked harder in the IB than I'd ever worked before," says Atkinson. "But I found a way to work hard and play hard at the same time, and that definitely prepared me for Harvard."

As the debate rages over slipping standards and educational accountability, a growing number of Canadians are turning to the two programs as academic anchors in an increasingly competitive world. The equivalent of educational boot camp, both the IB and AP offer students an unparalleled challenge. But along with sophisticated content, the programs' standing reputations ride on the fact that final exams are set and marked externally, helping to ensure rock-solid standards. Even more appealing for many is the fact that universities give first-year credits for many IB and AP



Harvard's Atkinson applies the IB program, an intensive curriculum with a worldwide reputation for excellence

courses. "There is an increasing globalization of our students, as well as our marketplace these days," says Robin Gelles, regional director of admissions at McGill University in Montreal. "And the IB is seen as a passport that opens doors around the world."

Little wonder, then, that the competition for entry into the program has become stiff. This year, McGill University received more than 500 applications from those with IB diplomas, an 80-per-cent jump since 1995. At Western Canada High School in Calgary, 502 students applied to the IB program this fall; about half were turned away. Schools are turning to both IB and AP in a bid to boost their academic profiles and attract students. Principled Neil Wyant at Colorado By Secondary School in Ottawa credits the introduction of the IB program with helping to ensure the school's survival: more than half its students come from out-



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Education

Externally marked exams ensure the rock-solid standards of the IB and AP programs

side in official curriculum area, driven to their four-year-old IB program. And as education systems in some provinces have reduced the number of enrichment programs available to high achievers, the AP and IB courses are being used at some schools to fill that gap.

Students seem to be thriving. In the IB diploma program alone, the Canadian pass rate is 94 per cent, among the highest in the world. Seventy-three schools offer the IB program across Canada, roughly three-quarters of them in the public system, 320 offer AP courses, an 85-per-cent increase since 1995. In the United States, the number of schools offering IB has almost doubled since 1995, while AP courses are offered in 12,228 schools, up 30 per cent since 1995. Policymakers are beginning to take note. The biggest booster by far is Florida, which provides additional school funding for every AP or IB final exam that is passed. As well, the successful students automatically receive a four-year \$14,800 scholarship to a Florida state university.

Of the two systems, the IB is decidedly the most comprehensive and cosmopolitan. Developed in Switzerland in the 1960s for the children of globe-trotting diplomats and executives, the entire program takes a holistic approach to fostering well-rounded individuals with a global outlook. The rigorous two-year diploma program requires candidates to complete six courses a year distributed over six areas: English or their mother tongue, a second language, math, science, social studies, plus one optional course, often in the arts. Those courses must be at the higher level, requiring 240 hours of



Teacher Andy Veladha with Karyen, Baseline and Steve Cox at Calgary's Father Lacombe High School, critical thinking.

classroom study over two years. Grade 12s also have completed a 4,000-word essay on a topic of their choice, as well as a philosophy course called the Theory of Knowledge, designed to promote critical thinking. The final hurdle comes with the Creativity, Action and Service program: students must log 150 hours of activity divided equally among voluntary service, sports and the arts. Ultimately, the IB program nurtures attributes increasingly in demand in the world at large: communication skills, critical thinking and the ability to speak a second language.

Advanced placement lacks some of the same bells and whistles. Schools can adopt individual courses for simply registering and obtaining curriculum materials free of charge from the New York City-based College Board, an association founded by several northeastern U.S. universities in 1899 to promote proper preparation for higher education. Launched in 1955, the AP program offers bright high-school students the equivalent of first-year university courses. Students can earn a credit simply by passing the exam, without doing the actual course.

By comparison, IB schools are an exclusive club, and membership does not come easily. Prospective schools are subjected to a two-year-long qualification process, which includes a voluminous written application and an inspection by a team representing the Geneva-based International Baccalaureate Organization. The inspectors' mission is two-pronged: to confirm that the school has the proper facilities for the program and, through interviews, to ensure that administrators, teachers, parents and students are completely on board. Canadian schools pay \$10,220 a year to the International Baccalaureate Organization, with some institutions doubleloading the cost on their students, along with modest exam fees. At Upper Canada College, for instance, the total works out to \$750 over the course of the two-year diploma program, on top of regular tuition.

Despite their differences, both the AP and IB

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Expanding horizons

The top 10 countries offering international baccalaureate and advanced placement courses in 1999, by number of schools

International baccalaureate	Advanced placement
United States	United States
Canada	Canada
Australia	Switzerland
Australia	Japan
United Kingdom	England
Netherlands	United Arab Emirates
Spain	Finland
Sweden	Hong Kong
Belgium	Japan
Chile	South Korea

Source: International Baccalaureate Organization, U.S. College Board

programs share a commitment to excellence. The material goes far deeper than conventional courses; geography classes include more field studies, history places a larger emphasis on primary documents; even science and math involve a substantial amount of written work. Students typically face at least twice the load of homework, and that's why brain alone are not enough. Motivation and crack time-management skills are perhaps even more important. "It's not just about being an overachiever," says Cristina Bacilio, 16, studying at the first-year IB level at Fisher Lacombe High School in Calgary. "I've never met more hardworking, determined people in my life." Being around like-minded peers motivates students to reach higher; add Tessa Kenyon, a 17-year-old studying second-year IB math and first-year IB physics at Fisher Lacombe. "Everyone around me understands what's happening," says Kenyon, who plans to pursue a business degree at the University of Calgary. "People really care what their marks are. In my regular classes, no one really cares."

For teachers, the programs can be rewarding as well. Since students are motivated internally, teachers and students are bound by a common cause, creating a special sense of community. The shared concentration of their minds keeps teachers on their toes. Those who fail to prepare do so at their own risk, says



McMurt's father: releasing a huge jump in applicants

While advanced standing is increasingly accepted, universities do little to encourage it. At Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., the opportunity to live in residence and participate in clubs or student government is considered key to helping first-year students gain the maturity they need to excel. "While we find these students to be well prepared academically, they're still young," says Queen's registrar Jo Anne Berchbold. "These are pretty critical years of life." It's exactly for that reason that some students decide against advanced standing. "I'm in no rush," says Adomson, who was eligible for advanced standing in three of his Harvard courses, but turned it down. "I need the time to decide what I want to concentrate on."

When it comes to deciding who actually gets in to certain programs, universities are reluctant to say that IB and AP students are actually favored. The risk of alienating students from regular high-school programs is too great. Still, university trends in the programs is clear. Five years ago, McGill conducted a study of IB grads from the province's CEGEP system and found they performed better academically than non-IB students. At the University of Alberta, there are now established separate scholarships for IB students. UCC's Marchewka says the very fact that universities offer advanced standing for IB courses is a nod to their superiority. "The facts are there," he argues. "The recognition is in place."

No one has to tell Rebecca and Seel Zaidi on the merits of the international baccalaureate. The Saint John, N.B., couple have sent their sons through the IB program at Saint John High School, and a fourth is on the way. All three went on to university—one to pursue a double degree in engineering and management, the second to study electrical engineering, and the third neuroscience. "Whenever they applied, they were accepted," says Rebecca, who came to Canada with her family from Pakistan in 1981. "It opened the door for them to so many choices." For the thousands following in their foot steps, it's a dream that still burns bright. ■

With double the homework load, brains alone are not enough: motivation and time-management skills are also crucial

Michael McMurt, who teaches an advanced calculus AP course at Marc Givens Collegiate Institute in Toronto. "There are incredible students in some of these classes," he says. "If you can explain it, they'll eat you alive."

The degree of difficulty explains why virtually no school in Canada offers IB or AP courses without an academic safety net. Even Upper Canada College, which made the international baccalaureate diploma program compulsory for all students in 1997, has devised a method of converting IB courses into regular Ontario academic credits for the minority of students who cannot make the grade. "I think it would have been difficult, if not impossible," says David Matthews, UCC's director of advanced offerings, "to convert our curriculum to read every boy in the IB program if we didn't have that fail-safe system."

For many parents, university access remains the primary concern, and officials from both programs have worked closely with schools to boost acceptance. Flood with a string number of applicants, most universities have developed their own guidelines on granting credits for IB and AP courses. But officials in both programs would like to see a more uniform approach. "There's no general rule on what universities will accept," says David Kelly, IB co-ordinator at Western Canada High in Calgary. "It's a matter of negotiation when you go into certain facilities."

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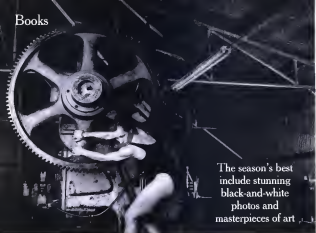
Who will make the Honour Roll for 1999?

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Illuminating Pages

As the holiday season approaches, book stores across the country pull out their heavy artillery—the annual biggest, brightest, most beautiful books. A selection of some of the year's best, reviewed by Maclean's writers and editors

Van Gogh in Provence and Auvers (PCW; \$108.95) may well be the art book of the season. Elegantly designed, it combines 300 colour and 60 black-and-white photos—many of well-known works—with sketches, photographs and a readable, authoritative text by University of Toronto art historian Bogdana Welch-Oschers, a Van Gogh scholar. A must-have for lovers of the artist.

In the eyes of Susan Schurr, Rembrandt van Rijn was more than a great master—he was a genius & takes one to know one. In *Rembrandt's Eyes* (Random House, \$75), Schurr, the intellectually dazzling cultural historian, has produced a richly illustrated biography in which he argues

convincingly that Rembrandt did things on canvas that no contemporary even thought of doing.

Sister Wendy Beckett, probably today's most popular art expert, and certainly the most popular, offers an extensive anthology of her favourite paintings in *1000 Masterpieces of Western Art* (Farrar, \$79.95). More than 500 artists are represented, more with two words. The Oxford-trained nun is particularly good at demystifying the symbolism in older pieces without compromising their grandeur.

Author of a number of books on Canadian art, Joan Marz has now produced *Canadian Art in the Twentieth Century* (Dundurn, \$69.99), a clear, comprehensive and valuable survey of the past 100 years. More traditional painters get their due, but Thomas is also unafraid of tackling some of the more difficult creators of the past two decades.

Women and Art: Conquering Territory (Random, \$49.95) examines the way artists of both genders have rev-

Travis champion Marlene
Nerubius by Anne Lebowitz
(opposite): a loving impression

dered females over the past 5,000 years. The book combines 200 colour images with provocative, accessible commentary by feminist artist-writer Judy Chicago and art historian Edward Lucie-Smith, addressing such issues as how gender determines the way women are portrayed. *Women Artists* (PCW; \$108.95), meanwhile, is a tribute to female artists over the past five centuries. *Women Art Journal*, this is a beautiful, comprehensive and stimulating survey.

Kinghoff Images of Canada (Douglas & McIntyre, \$85), the catalogue to the first critical exhibition of the minimalist paintings of abstracts and semi-abstracts by the 19th-century artist, reveals his images to be more than the familiar stuff of Christmas cards. Accompanied by 152 sympathetic reproductions, Art Gallery of Ontario chief curator Dennis Reid's essay places Corbould Kinghoff firmly in the pantheon of great Canadian artists, and reveals how his vision indelibly stamped linear perceptions of the era.

In the 25 years following the Second World War, many Inuit abandoned their nomadic lifestyle. In *Celebrating Inuit Art 1948-1970* (Key Porter, \$55),

Maria van Rossum, curator of Inuit art at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, features more than 100 sculptures created during that period. The text, which includes an interview with sculptor George Pasenik, offers additional insight into the role art played in Inuit cultural upheaval.

Almost thick enough to be a cube, the 1,317-page *Century* (Plender, \$75) fully deserves its subtitle, *One Hundred Years of Human Progress, Regression, Suffering and Hope*. There's a very little text—mostly titles, sometimes captions, culled under the photos. But what photos! The first decade, with its dramatic shots of the 1905 Russian Revolution and Oscar Wilde on his Park bench, sets the tone for a stunning collection that ends with Kosovo and Littleton, Colo., while seemingly capturing everything in between.

The cover says it all, in bold red, white and blue over-sized letters: **American Greats** (HarperCollins, \$72.50). Sound like another volume in *American journalist's* Wall, it is. Except editors Robert Wilson and Stanley Macaulay's collection of 81 essays and 250 images offer up some genuinely interesting commentary on the ideas, people, places and things they believe "help define American greatness"—like Corey Island, *The New York Times* and TV sitcoms (especially the last episode of *McGill*).

Photographer Anna Lebowitz makes a powerful statement in *Women* (Random House, \$115), a collection of mostly black-and-white portraits. She photographed 170 individuals, many of



John Lennon in The
Smile, from the W.O.
Museum Country
book. Napa, after the
band in Century
(right): progress
and regression



them celebrities like Susan Sarandon and a glamorous Hilary Swank. But it is the old miners, coal miners, activists and abused females who create a lasting impression. Less inspired is the accompanying essay by writer Susan Sontag.

New Zealand photographer Anne Geddis is famous for her shots of babies, and her retrospective collection *Visual New Zealand* (McMull, \$75) has 113 of her own favourites. Some of the images veer particularly close to a urticaria neuroticism—infants dressed in fur— but most succeed in conveying the wonder of their subjects' existence. The two-page spread of 123 six-month-olds in terra cotta pots, one to mention Geddis' description of the sheep's normal logic, is a highlight.

People love to say of the '60s: "You had to be there." But veteran photographer Richard Avedon's album *The Sixties* (Random House, \$115), with a text by longtime collaborator Dove Arbus, is a more-than-worthy flashback. The pictures showcase the most memorable aspects of the decade—Andy Warhol's "family" rock and revolutionaries—and also such nightmares as Vietnam airport victims.

With more than 100 typically radiant photos by David Alan Harvey and three local essays by *National Geographic* staffer Elizabeth Newhouse, *Cuba* (Duncan, \$76) offers an appealing excursion to the Caribbean nation. Harvey takes his camera to all corners of the country, and to every imaginable walk of life, including the simple sex trade and the boogie ring.

Harvard University graduate Henry Louis Gates Jr. brings considerable erudition to bear in *Wonders of the African World*



The city is a poem 'whose full meaning will always remain elusive,' but *New York* comes close to putting it into focus

(Random House, \$62) Although produced as a companion piece to a PBS documentary series, the book—which includes 66 photos by American Lynn Davis—clearly stands on its own. Part monologue, part history, the work ultimately becomes a voyage of self-discovery for the African-American Gates.

Bill Haas wears legend with social commentary as his moving portrait of an Alaskan whaling community: *Gift of the Whale* (Raincoast, \$60). His 180 duotone photographs and his text recount the whaler community's annual bowhead whale hunt, capturing both the harsh realities and intimate moments of a 3,000-year-old way of life.

Compelling vision of the hard, sometimes perilous, existence of Palestinians in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip fill the pages of *Then Palestine* (Aperture, \$70). Canadian Larry Towell, one of the world's top photo-journalists, made seven trips to the occupied territories between 1993 and 1997. Rounding out the book are verse by noted Palestinian poet Mahammed Darwish and an essay by French journalist Henri Bockstans, as well as Towell's journal entries.

Henry (Richard) The Revere
Robert Walker Mating, from
1990 Manuscript of William
Am. *Discovering the epiphany*

The World Wildlife Fund's *Living Planet: Preserving Eden of the Earth* (Random House, \$62) features exciting work from three renowned nature photographers—Fran Lenzing, Galen Rowell and David Doubilet. The book's aim is to raise money for the fund's campaign to protect a series of particularly rich habitats around the world. The marvellously varied photos are persuasive arguments for the effort.

Writing about environmental concerns without being preachy is not easy. But two concerned 23-year-olds have achieved that balance in their first book, *Images of Our Inheritance: A Journey Through Canada's Fragile Landscape* (Whitecap Books, \$34.95). In clear text and eye-catching colour photos, James Sidney and Sarah Stewart turn their travels to some of the nation's most threatened ecosystems.

Author W.G. Mitchell called the Prince his "greatest love" and the "ultimate enigma." In *W.G. Mitchell: Cemetery* (McClelland & Stewart, \$60), Saskatchewan Courtney Milne offers a rich and varied visual interpretation of the author's work. Milne selected 200 of his previously unpublished landscapes ranging from busy streets and scenes to triple-exposed photographs of Alberta pine.

Amid the ever-growing hoards around the Royal Family, the Queen Mother, Elizabeth, remains its most interesting member. Now 95, she is profiled in *The Last Great Edwardian Lady: The Life and Style of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother* (Random House, \$39.95) by Ingrid Seward. Well-researched and illustrated, it is a fascinating but slow-eyed—and a disappointing good read. She describes a strong woman with a lively sense of humour, an inventive dressmaker with a taste for champagne or gin-Long before airplanes or automobiles, travel brought Canadians together. In *Magnetic North: Canadian Stories in Twilight* (Knicker, \$49.95), two American enthusiasts, Roger Cook and Karl Zimmermann, chart the disappearance of seven engines from Canada, beginning in the late 1950s. Their prose is useful, and accompanied by dozens of stunning photographs of the magnificent beasts of a bygone era.

It sometimes seems as though the riches of British Imperial manuscripts are never exhausted. The vast archives of London's Natural History Museum furnish the raw material for *Voyages of Discovery* (Random House, \$90). The exquisitely illustrated book contains drawings of exotic animals and plants and brief descriptions of 10 scientific journeys, including the most famous voyage of discovery ever undertaken—Charles Darwin's fateful march on the *Beagle* between 1831 and 1835. They gaze, they saw. Quite a few of them focus to itself. James E. Delgado's *Across the Top of the World* (Douglas & McIntyre, \$45) tells the story of the *Itasca*—if often hapless—expedition looking for the Northwest Passage. Delgado



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uses a mixture of archival material, present-day photographs and detailed maps to paint a telling portrait of one of the world's great navigational challenges.

For the six authors of *National Geographic Photographs: The Millennium* (Dutton, \$74) choosing hundreds of spectacular photographs to best represent the 111-year-old society's history must have been a daunting challenge. Their selections, which range from Arctic explorations to a tiger in mid-leap, are both eclectic and magnificent.

Big city Big book: Ric Barna's *New York* (Random House, \$90) tells the awe-inspiring story of the Big Apple in 575 pages of stunning photographs and eyewitness accounts. A companion to a PBS documentary series, *New York* profiles the city in all its moods. The writer E. B. White noted that Manhattan was a poem "whose full meaning will always remain elusive." This gigantic epic comes close to putting it into focus.

Miss gardening, books tend to blossom best in spring. Ric Marijole Harris, one of Canada's best-known garden writers, likes to scintillate readers like this: reading—and enjoying—plants is a year-round pastime. As proof, some of the loveliest of the dozens of colour photos in *The Woman's author's new Seasons of My Garden* (HaperCollins, \$39.95) were taken during winter.

While Napa Valley wine, Antinori's holy land of food and wine, then a restaurant called French Laundry is regularly in most recent kitchen. *The French Laundry Cookbook* (Thomas Allen, \$75), a gastronomic work with a twist by the establishment's chef-owner, Thomas Keller, combines gaudy-looking photos by Deborah Jones with 150 haute-gourmet recipes, stuffed potato chips with snails dip, anyone?

Another place of culinary worship in Napa—after one specializing in less cooked fare—is celebrated in *The Tin Vine Cookbook* (Random, \$24), by chef-owner Michael Chaville, with photos by Karl Probie. The recipes in this beautifully designed, seasonally organized book are sure to actually prepare, not just doodle over.

More Tim has won an Emmy for his popular Food Network show, *Star Chef*. Now, with *Blue Ginger* (Random House, \$48.95), he brings his trademark marriage of Asian and Western tastes to book form. Named after Tim's popular Manhattan restaurant, the book—co-written with Arthur Boehm, and with elegant photos by Allen Richardson—is full of surprises, such as two-smoked salmon with potato latkes.

For landlubbers everywhere, *The Lucy Maud Montgomery Album* (Fisher and Whitehead, \$50), compiled by Kevin McCabe and edited by Alexandra Hoffman, is a



Anne's Golden pastries: twisted loquities and the wonder of existence

slap-dash delight. Including more than 400 photographs (many by Montgomery herself) and 300 maps, it is a treasure trove covering, among other things, her many homes, her marriage and the TV adaptations of her works. There is even a recipe for Diana Barry's infamous raspberry cordial.

For the summer stargazer, the expert astronomer, three outstanding books on the universe are sure to find appeal. The standard textually is *Magellanic Universe* (Simon and Schuster, \$97), written by Harvard-trained astronomer Ken Croswell, with more than 100 full-colour portraits produced by observatories around the world. For the most advanced astronomer, there is *Other Worlds: Images of the Cosmos from Earth and Space* (Dutton, \$52) by James Griffith, and *Unfolding Our Universe* (Cambridge University Press, \$59.95) by Iain Nicolson. Rich in photography, both offer detailed explanations of the creation of the cosmos.

Tying to his Wayne Gretzky was like "wringing your arms around a pig," says former New York Islanders defenceman Denis Potvin, just one of the big name contributions in *Total Gretzky: The Magic, the Legend, the Numbers* (McClelland & Stewart, \$29.95), compiled by Steve Dryden, editor of *The Hockey News*. Dryden also edited former broadcaster Peter Gosselin and journalist Ray MacGregor to add some history left to the project.

Even though the Toronto Maple Leafs moved to a new arena last February, Maple Leaf Gardens, their home since it opened in November, 1931, remains a national landmark—some might even say a shrine. *Maple Leaf Gardens: Memories & Dreams 1931-1999* (Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment, \$69) celebrates the 68-year life of a great building, and includes photos by some distinguished writers, including novelist Paul Quinlan, poetess Deborah Camp and social commentator Rick Salutin.

Finally, two *Maple Leaf* books look back to the country's past. *Canada in the Fifteen* (Penguin, \$35) and *Canada's Century* (Key Porter, \$35) draw on old notes of the magazine to celebrate where this country has been and, perhaps, point to where it is going. ■



Growing in Collecting: Indie Art: cultural upheaval

Hollywood looks back in anger, and love

As the year and the millennium come down to the wire, the movies get serious with tales of war, strife and passion

By Brian D. Johnson

December is the cruellest month in the movies. It's when Hollywood releases its most serious pictures, so that they'll be fresh in the minds of Oscar voters. And this season's list is spookier than ever. Anyone seeking a big-screen escape from holiday stress should be prepared for war, holocaust, abortion, racism, bigotry, racism, mental illness, incarceration, execution and doomed romance. But apparently, the worst is behind us. As the world looks ahead to the new millennium, the movies are busy looking back. Hollywood has never been more enamored of the past. The vast majority of this season's releases—a dozen—are period dramas set in the 20th century: *The Green Mile*, *The Hurricane*, *The End of the Affair*, *Sweet Home*, *Snow Falling on Cedars*, *The Cider House Rules*, *Men on the Moon*, *The Saltonstall M. Ripley*, *Acute and the King*, *Lately Hapless*, *Good Will Rock* and *Girl, Interrupted*. A partial survey:

Two of the season's clearest Oscar contenders are epic

prison dramas about noble black men in jail on dubious murder rape. While *The Hurricane* tells the true story of boxer Rubin Carter's wrongful conviction and the Canadians who fought to free him (*Michael*, Dec. 6), *The Green Mile* of first a fanciful tale from the gothic imagination of Stephen King. Clocking in at three hours plus, this tale of death row inmates awaiting the electric chair is the season's longest movie. But it is paired with enough high-voltage entertainment that it never feels like a life sentence.

The Green Mile has some curious benchmarks. It offers what is perhaps the most prolonged and horrific electric-chair scene ever filmed: the inmate literally burns to a crisp. This also has to be the only movie ever made in which the hero—a prison guard played by Tom Hanks—spends the first hour in mourning pain from a bladder infection. And it must be a screen model for attention seekers, including several with Alaska, one of a guard wearing himself as fire and one of a prisoner sporting a guard. It's a wonder they didn't call it *The Golden Mile*.

The title, in fact, refers to a bunch of green linears leading from the jail cell to the electric chair. And the movie, set in the Depression-era South, plays as a mix of sexual thriller, sentimental fable and supernatural yarn—*Dead Men Walking* meets *King David* with gross-out effects. Hanks is superb as Paul, the conscientious master of death row. As his

prisoners become and his eyes bleed, the actor is much more pathetic as a prison guard than a romantic lead. His scenes combine a madman's confusion of the damned: a wheat psychopaths, a sad clown, a crotch Cajun—and a slow-witted, seven-foot black man with magical healing powers, played with irresistible sensitivity by Michael Clarke Duncan.

The genre goes down the screen with a per mouse named Mr. Jingles, who is a circus animal in the Cape. It's the season's best music, it is. But Frank Darabont—adapting his second Stephen King prison novel after *The Shawshank Redemption* (1994)—directs with impressive power. He has the Spielberg touch. And although *The Green Mile*'s tale of race and even looks the creepiest, *Force of The Hurricane*, it lights up the issue of capital punishment like a Christmas tree.

For those seeking something cooler and cooler, Irish writer-director Neil Jordan has come up with a lovely adaptation of Graham Greene's 1951 novel, *The End of the Affair*.

Of Greene's two dozen books and plays, this is perhaps his most autobiographical, a tale of jealousy inspired by the author's ill-fated love affair with a married Catholic woman. Just as Canadian director Dennis Bontems delves into Jane Austen dramas and known to screen *Midsouth Park*, Jordan has done the same with Greene. But made from juggling the chronology—and handling the narrative with lots of rain and sex—the adaptation is a relatively faithful to the book.

The potentially haunted Ralph Fenners is on familiar ground as novelist Maurice Bendish, an uninvolved lover engaged in romantic espionage. Bendish has a private obsession to find out if the woman who inexplicably ended her affair with him during the Blitz is now cheating on her husband with yet another man. Irish actor Stephen Rea plays against type in the cuckolded husband, a poor English civil servant. As the duplicitous wife, Julianne Moore cuts to the quick with her nasal delicacy. And Ian Hart politely steals his scenes as the shrewdly formal

archery detective.

Start with some heavy and emotional scenes. *The End of the Affair* makes a change of pace for the director of *The Gypsy Game*, *Baroness* with the *Venue* and *The Bachelor Boy*. It is a literary romance that plays like a novel. English English Fenners—spare, intense and largely indoors. The camera makes a fetish of the woman's face, from the jangling keys of Bendish's opponent to the soul-searching journal of the woman he loves. Jordan has captured the essence of Greene's tragedy, a diabolical counter between jealousy and faith in which nothing explains everything and solves nothing.

Fenners takes on a more demanding assignment in *Sweet Home*. Directed by Hong Kong's Steven Soderbergh and produced by Canadian Robert Lantos, this macabre saga spans three generations of a Jewish family in Budapest against the backdrop of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Holocaust and Communist repression. Playing three successive characters—grandfather, father and son—Fenners delivers a virtuoso performance. And there are some unforgettable scenes, from a fencing match at the Berlin Olympics to an icy crucifixion in a Nazi death camp. History bleeds through every frame of Soderbergh's show-biz saga. But the script—which Soderbergh loosely based on his own family—loses momentum by the third act. Love interest are whacked in and out before we get to know them. And in the end, the sense of noble tragedy turns on the movie itself, which is almost crushed under the weight of its own ambition.

Pacing again proves to be a problem in *Snow Falling on Cedars*, another tale of discrimination moved to the Second

Fenners (left), Moore in *The End of the Affair*: romantic espionage



Kush (left), Moore in *Snow Falling on Cedars*; Hanks, Duncan (right) in *The Green Mile*: Oscar ambitions



With so many movies looking back on this century, Hollywood has never seemed so enamoured of the past

World War: Set on a Pacific Northwest island in 1950, it stars Ethan Hawke as reporter Inland Chambers, who becomes involved in a murder that that opens up old wounds. The accused is an American of Japanese descent whose family was interned after Pearl Harbor, and who is now married to Chambers's childhood sweetheart (Toko Kadoh). Adapting David Guterson's 1994 best-seller, Australian director Scott Hicks follows up the success of *Shine* (1996) with a movie that strays far from genre's pedigree. As he layers his luscious narrative with flashbacks, shrouded in images of the Pacific coast, his almost lost the story in the fog. And the snow falling on those dense, red-tan dunes does feel awfully far away.

The Cider House Rules offers another literary spin about a young American grappling with moral issues. Based on the 1985 novel by John Irving, who also wrote the script, it is a scandalous odyssey that takes us here from a New England orphanage to an apple orchard and back during the 1940s. Homer, played by the personable Tobey Maguire, grows up in the orphanage under the care of Dr. Wilbur Larch (Michael Caine), an unconventional patriarch who performs abortions on the side. As he comes of age, Homer finds a ride with a young couple, finds a new life place, gets with black laborer— and falls in love with Candy (Charlotte Thorne) while her husband is at war.

Living his director's life, he has won 15-year odyssey to turn *The Color Purple* into a movie. The various scripts have passed through the hands of four directors, including Canadian Philip Barak (*The Grey Fox*), who died in 1995. Inheriting the project, Swedish director Lasse Hallström (*My Life as a Dog*) has crafted a surely handsome picture. It is an engaging movie, bawling with incident, but Hallström's usually direction tends to drag, and the onscreen scenes are too heavily on public.

Sentiment is the currency of the season, and it crops up in the most unexpected places. Even *Cradle Will Rock*, a slice of socialist history is not immune. Directed by Tim Robbins, the film cracks the true story of Orson Welles directing his Federal Theatre Project troupe in an anti-capitalist musical that got closed down by the U.S. government on the eve of its premiere. It's a fascinating story with a moving finale. But despite such inclusions as Susan Sarandon, Vanessa Redgrave, Bill Murray and Joan Cusack, the characters are like caricatures.



Curry (left), *Love in Man on the Moon*: a glimpse about the uncontainable Andy Kaufman, who lived the rules of TV

board cutouts in a dreamscape of technic realism. *At All Times*, Toronto playwright Jason Sherman's recent dramatization of the same subject, was far more effective.

Man on the Moon, Miles Per Hour (and) anything else he might choose to do. And, as a result, the film is a celebration of the actor's career, from his early days as a child actor to his later years as a Hollywood star. The film is a love letter to the actor, and it is a testament to his talent and his dedication to his craft. The film is a must-see for anyone who loves the actor, and it is a must-see for anyone who loves the film industry.

But the giddy swirl of doing boogie comedy on late television loses something in the translation to a slick Hollywood movie. The film, which plays like a chase of *Forness's The Purple and the Faint*—complete with *Country Love* as the love-in—never penetrates the craggy of Kaufman's charac-

Around the stage of a mansion in which even comedy gets serious, there is still some unscheduled holiday cheer. *Toy Story 2* is a thoroughly enjoyable piece of family entertainment. The script is witty, the computer animation sharper than ever, and Tom Hanks and Tim Allen are both back in the saddle as the voices of Woody and Buzz Lightyear. Meanwhile, *Snowy Little* does for talking mice what *Babe* did for talking pigs. With Mr. Jingles as a main character on death row, Casey crooning "Here I come to save the day," and Geena Davis acting with tenderness in *Snowy Little*, the last Hollywood run of the millennium may be a Christmas movie. **B**



Scene from Toy Story 2: witty script, superb animation

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Charles Gordon

Just give them a bit of cash

Given the times, it was probably a rather un-Canadian thought: standing just inside the gates of Caribou's Angus W., contemplating the 475-in average leading to the temple, composed by the scale of it all, the ambition, and thinking "Why can't we do this?"

There are two answers. One is that we don't have the resources of war and slave labour that made many of the great monuments of the past possible. The other is that we pursue, as they say, a bit differently now. On the plus side, this means we prefer to offer up our public spending programs to the people rather than the gods. On the minus side, it means we have been so beaten down by the deficit-cutting mentality that we can't bring ourselves to build a day-one centre, let alone a monument. It is true that there are grand temples being built today in Canada, but they are casinos.

The approaching Millennium Year lends itself to thoughts of making monuments, of doing something Significant. The question is whether there is the will. So far, from the federal government we have seen only the latest Millennium Partnership Program, the Millennium Scholarship Fund, whose main aim seems to have been to annoy the provinces, and a big New York Eve show in Ottawa and at the casino in Hall Expo 67 is not.

It was 1967, you will remember, that saw the last big flurry of monument building. There have been a couple built since—the most notable being the capital's beautiful National Gallery and distinctive Museum of Civilization—but it was 1967 that produced all those statues and sculptures that are now fixtures in the lives of Canadian cities and towns. Had our obsession with the bottom budgetary line been in place then, a lot of cities would still be watching the bullet in the high-school gym. Take a comfortable seat in the National Arts Centre, opened in 1969, note the beautiful soundings and fine acoustics and ask yourself whether we would build it now if it didn't exist. This building, along with smaller versions in other cities and towns, helped to create a culture by bringing Canadiana performers to Canadian audiences, Canadian audiences to Canadian performers. We take a lot of that for granted now, but the days of *Spring Thaw* playing in the school auditorium are not that far behind us.

It took a push to get us from there to here and a lot of that push came in Centennial Year, when public settings were opened, the arts benefited and Canadians did, too. Public spending has been in disgrace for a while, but now we have the combination of a new millennium and a new budget surplus. What could be more convenient? (And what better

way to annoy the International Monetary Fund, which has been accusing us on our fiscal policies, again.)

Unfortunately, what we need now are not grand and gleaming new things. We certainly don't need more arts centres and, give or take an opera house or two, we have enough buildings. There are lots of theatres, museums and concert halls. It is what goes into them that needs support. While the government, when it decides to spend, needs to do something splendid that can carry a plaque with at least one minister's name on it, Canadian cultural needs are less spectacular, although no less acute.

Put simply, they can be defined as money. Publishers need money to put their writers on test. They need policies that will eliminate the possibility of monopolistic domination in the retail trade and unfair competition from across the border. The letter also applies to magazine publishers. Symphonies need money to pay their musicians what they merit, relative to competing orchestras. There was once a day when musicians were expected to perform for the state love of it, plus a rate of remuneration that was in effect a tax on their employment of their jobs. That never worked, and it works even less now when Canadian musicians can look south and see what is being paid elsewhere for work that is no better.

No gleaming monument will fix this, only money—good old subsidies and grants to make sure our orchestra survives without having to put their tickets out of the reach of the average concertgoer. It is amazing, in these pragmatic, cost-cutting days, how noble it sounds to create these words: subsidies and grants. But give a thought to how it is done in other countries. The same way. Around the world, the fine arts don't support themselves, yet politicians have decided that they are worth supporting.

For the millennium, the CBC could be given some better financial underpinning. Years of cost-cutting have turned the corporation into something it was never meant to be, a money-oriented organization, and there is no indication that obsession with money produces great programming.

Theatre companies need money to commission new work, produce it and bring people into the theatre without having to put on the same old chestnuts year after year. The film industry needs some enlightened policies that will help more Canadian movies reach Canadian screens.

What we need, in short, is an art policy, one that guarantees government with currency. It doesn't cost much money, as the grand budgetary schemes of things. Once in place, it will not look spectacular, like a giant casino on New Year's Eve, but it will be felt, in a positive way, for years to come. After all these years of self-denial, isn't it time for something positive?

Charles Gordon is a columnist with The Ottawa Citizen.



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Obituary

A versatile writer's writer

Matt Cohen 'left some very important books'

In his final months, Matt Cohen reflected as many summers as one of the beleaguered, life-loving characters in his own novels. Diagnosed last spring with lung cancer, he kept at writing, and last month won the prestigious \$58,000 Governor General's Award for his novel *Shoreland After*. The generous prize was made as a memento, courtesy of Ontario's Government House, where Gov. Gen. Adrienne Clarkson, a longtime friend, broke with precedent by publicly endorsing him. Clearly showing the effects of chemotherapy, Cohen, 36, joked in his acceptance speech that it would have been nice to win when he was "younger and heavier."

Only 16 days after his triumph in Ottawa, Cohen died last week in his Toronto home. In many ways a writer's writer—versatile, craft-conscious and technically dextrous—he was an extremely popular figure in Canada's literary community. The novelist Grosse Giboux, who with his partner, Margaret Atwood, were close friends of Cohen's, remarks that "he left some very important books, which are going to last. There's no question he leaves a very big hole." Another friend, author John Ralston Saul, laments the loss of Cohen's "formidable intelligence. He played a critical role, not just as a writer, but as a public participant in our country's attempts to think about itself, to critique itself."

Born in Montreal and raised in Kingston, Ont., Cohen published his first novel, *Kennedy*, in 1989, when he was 26. It sold only a few hundred copies, but it marked the beginning of Cohen's long, sometimes clerk, somewhat

nominal recognition. Over the next three decades, he would publish nearly 30 books, including novels, short-story collections, poetry, children's books and translations of French-Canadian literature. His first major breakthrough came in 1974, when his novel *The Doves* was widely praised by reviewers. It launched what would ultimately become known as "the Salem quarter"—four linked novels set in fictional Salem County, situated somewhere north of Kingston.

Cohen loved that rough but dramatic landscape on the edge of the Canadian Shield. He owned a gateway cabin set on 177 acres of rock outcrops and bush, and would hike long walks with his dog while sorting out the problems posed by his latest book. "There was something about that country that spoke to him," remarks Gay Hollingshead, the Alberta-based novelist who, like many other writers, benefited by his own career with Cohen's encouragement. "It grounded his essentially traditional style in something much more emotionally felt."

In fact, Cohen was a complex figure—an urban Jewish intellectual with deep roots in the land; a Canadian cultural enthusiast whose books sold well in Holland and France; a prickly individual who fought hard for the Public Lending Right—which meant that writers were paid each time their books were borrowed from a public library. Giboux remarks that Cohen was one of the fanatical men he's ever known. "He could, when he got a riff



Cohen, nearly 30 novels over three decades

going, reduce a table of people to helpless laughter." The very author was also a dedicated baseball player, recalled in his Toronto pickup league as a terror on the coast. Says fellow player Henrik Cameron: "He had this menacing and infuriating floating back shot."

At the end, Cohen was surrounded by his family: his wife, publisher Penny Allison, their two children, Daniel, 17, and Madeline, 15, and his two stepchildren, Seth, 26, and Carina, 30. Ironically, just three years before, Cohen had published *Lost Son*, his masterful, tragicomic account of two brothers—one of whom succumbs to cancer. Based on the death of his own youngest brother in 1992, the book shows Cohen at his best—striking life's hardest passages with a light, buoyant touch while still honoring their importance. By all accounts, he approached his own illness the same way. "To see him in these last six months or so was extraordinary," remarks Hollingshead. "You had a sense of yes, this is how to do it: that is how to face death with grace."

John Barrow



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Automotive Marketplace

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Dave Wood

W

interiorizing your car is something that every car owner needs to do, but it does not necessarily mean spending the money on a

full-blown tune-up, says Dave Wood, owner of Dove Wood Mazda in Newmarket, Ont.

Wood, who has been a car dealer since 1980, presently owns the largest volume Mazda dealership in the Region of York. He understands how important it is to make sure that your car is ready for the harsh conditions of winter driving.

Wood's Service Manager Kevin Golden agrees. He explains that most new cars and vehicles on leasing plans have regular maintenance schedules which, if followed, ensure they will always be ready for changing seasonal conditions.

"All tune-ups are rather paid," says Golden. "Cars which are kept on a regular maintenance program are continually checked to make sure they are ready for the road and should not require a special full

tune-up. I would recommend that older cars, which may have dropped off a regular maintenance schedule, be taken into a local dealership for a general 30-point inspection."

"Things like wiper blades, lights, fan belts and tire pressure should be checked periodically by the car owner but a general inspection will go beyond these things and test areas that cannot be checked so easily," says Golden. "Something as simple as replacing an old battery can make all the difference on a cold winter night."

It is better to discover and deal with a potential problem now, rather than later, Golden points out. A small problem now can lead to a much larger repair bill in the future if it is not fixed. A 30-point inspection will not cost you much, usually around \$29 to \$35, and you should receive written documentation which will entitle any area that might need attention.

"Your local dealer knows what a bent for your car and will use genuine, factory-approved parts," agrees

Wood "They will also understand what works best in your local driving regime."

Wood explains that a dealer in rural Quebec would probably advise you to put snow tires on your car while here in the Toronto area, the weather is not so severe and winter driving can be accomplished safely on all-season tires.

Dealers Monitored

Some places that offer fill 'n-tops will replace parts and add fluids even if your car does not need them, warns Giddien. Local dealers are bound by the car manufacturer's conditions, and monitored by independent parties to ensure that unnecessary servicing does not take place.

"That doesn't mean that it never happens," explains Giddien, "but when you take your car to a dealership you can be sure that the service personnel know your car and what it needs to run safely and efficiently."

Honesty is an important issue when it comes to car repairs, says Wood. The bottom line is that you have to trust the people servicing your car; you get a bad feeling from someone, you are not doing yourself, or them, any good if you keep going back. The service professional who services your car regularly gets to know your car and you need to trust his or her judgment.

"Once you develop a good relationship, it is good for both the dealership and the customer," continues Wood. "You get a good feeling all round. Customer satisfaction is very important to all new car dealers. I think the secret to any successful dealership is looking after your customer, because without a satisfied customer you have nothing."

FOUR TIPS TO KEEP YOU SAFE AND SAVE YOU MONEY THIS WINTER

With winter fast approaching and gas prices rising, Ramon Giddien, Service Manager at Dave Wood Mazda in Newmarket, Ont., offers some winter driving advice that can save you gas and money—and keep you safe too.

Don't be Idle

Letting your car idle for long periods to warm it up wastes gasoline, says Giddien, and may not be necessary.

Most new car manufacturers are recommending 30-60 seconds, rather than the conventional 10-15 minutes for winter driving. The

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"Your heater may not be at full power yet," notes Gooden, "but at least you are not wasting gas by idling for extended periods every morning. The minutes of idling every day can use up a lot of gas each week."

Get Off to a Good Start

If you are driving an older car, sudden stops and starts can cost you up to one per cent of your total gas consumption. On the other hand, the advanced fuel injection system in a newer car regulates the amount of gas going to the engine, reducing the consequences of sudden stopping and starting, says Gooden.

"This doesn't mean that you should over-accelerate when you are driving," warns Gooden. "Winter driving conditions are usually slippery even when they don't look like they are. Smooth acceleration and gradual, controlled braking are better for your car and for your own safety."

Avoid Getting Tired

Ensuring that your tires are properly inflated will save you money and give you better steering control in icy conditions. You should always

use the manufacturer's recommended pressures and not the ones stamped into the sides of your tires, explains Gooden.

The manufacturer's suggested pressure is based on the car's specifications and is often different for front and rear axes. The correct tire pressure will give you maximum contact with the road and therefore maximum traction.

"Don't trust those pressure gauges that are attached to the air pump, though," cautions Gooden. "They are wrong 99 per cent of the time. Instead, use a reliable handheld gauge to check your tire pressure."

Practice Safe Seating

Installing a child seat properly is very important, says Gooden. Child seats should only be anchored to the factory-installed mounting bolts found in the back area of your car. A manufacturer-supplied tether strap must also be attached to the top of the child seat to prevent it from tipping forward.

"I have a small child myself, so I take child seat installation very seriously," says Gooden. "It is really dangerous to install one incorrectly. For example, they should never be mounted in a seat that is equipped with an airbag, or in the backseat of a pickup truck. Check your car manual for the proper location and installation instructions, or take the child seat to your local dealership for professional advice if you are unsure."

Television

High-tech St. Nick

Must Be Santa

CBC, Dec. 22, 8 p.m.

Introducing a new variety of Santa Claus, the reindeer concept. The two-hour CBC movie *After He Sings* tells the story of Floyd Coors, an average guy who is down on his luck until, by a quirky mishap, he is enlisted to replace the real St. Nick, who has passed on to the great North Pole in the sky. Problem is, Coors (Canadian Arnold Pinnock of the CTV series *The Cag*) has strained relations with his daughter and financial woes to sort out before deceasing the red suit.

Like most yuletide movies, *After He Sings* is a story of redemption. By em-

bodding the spirit of Christmas, Coors surely breaks relationships and finds happiness. The best of this genre—*A Christmas Carol*, *Miracle on 34th Street*—succeeds because they portray the solitary essence of central characters who yearn for a second chance. Viewers are gratified once the troubled protagonist discovers the healing power of love.

After He Sings shows us a new twist. Santa is a young black man. The North Pole has become a high-tech wilderness park run by a madman named Lorde (Dolores Coleman). Santa has a love interest, Natalie Furler (Diana Mulgrew), who charms him with her pre-90s optimism and blood kink. *After He Sings* works best when it focuses on characters



French (left), Mulgrew, working relationships and finding happiness

and relationships. Vancouver-based director Brad Warner does a nice job of pacing what could be a very pondering story. Pinnock makes for an endearing hero, and his relationship with Furler crackles. But the movie is hampered by an array of superfluous special effects used to evoke the North Pole park and a snowstorm. There is nothing wrong with these computer-generated pyrotechnics, it just that Christmas is about feelings, not fishes.

Andrew Clark



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Photo: Tony Melisko; McKinnon and Melisko Photography Studios

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U E C R O L L O E H E R O E S



Allan Fotheringham

When readers get abusive

I am in receipt of a letter from Denis Anderson, the famed feminist and (I assure you) the complainer about a recent column where I recounted a party in 1982 where we were sending Adrienne Clarkson off to Paris to be Ottawa's agent-general.

Your careful scribbles said how Denis, the keynote speaker, turned to her close friend Adrienne and announced: "Adrienne, all your female friends here know you're beautiful, you're healthy, you're kind, you're loyal, you dance wonderfully—and that's why we all hate your guts."

It brought down the house, funny and certainly affectionate. As I noted, there is no malice in Adrienne's invitation as Governor General, was her close friend Denis front and centre in the box seats.

Denis now claims that she never said it and claims Ford is in the early stages of Alzheimer's. In effect, I am a liar.

I have found six of the usual suspects at that notorious party who have been doing out on that great patch line for years and have testified they are only will go to court for me, but also, if sent to jail for dementia, will send cakes containing bad news.

Denis, chill out.

Another letter comes from Naomi Chapman of Winnipeg. A strange phenomenon is appearing on your back page. First, Mr. Fotheringham dedicates an entire page to denigrating a Holocaust denier who satanically refers to a significant movie as "Satan's Last." Now in Fotheringham's most recent column he refers to Gerry Schwartz as solely motivated by "greed"—a Yiddish word meaning money. Is this a new trend in Dr. Freud's house—or was it always there?

"Ged" is in the old Yiddish tongue—as in other words such as "loving" and "schlipping" that have entered the language because they express feelings better than their English equivalents. Back to Damon Runyon on Broadway and everywhere on Bay Street and Wall Street today.

The basis of the Doug Collins situation is called freedom of expression. Collins, who by occupying from an 100 Nazi prisoners-of-war camps established his own personal view of Adolf Hitler, on his own madhouse way is allowed to be wrong in his criticism of the number of those killed in the Holocaust. The basis of democracy which he fought for an

100 times, is that he is allowed to be wrong. What we would have been his first defender.

Next a letter from Brian Ryan of Halimstone Bay, B.C., published last week.

"What a most infuriating, in his infinite, name-calling, trait, mean, ally-out." And now this is really harsh, comparing your humble agent to Don Cherry—"back inappreciable provided with national stages, an living, local (muddled) testimony to the sad fact that race, offensive contemporary is contained and rewarded."

And a good thing too! Racism is a great tradition in literature, the better for it. One would be glad to be thrown into the class of Robert, Swift, Shaw, Twain (Has this guy ever read H. L. Menckend?)

We mentioned here the other day Bob Edwards and his Calgary Eye-Opener. On Oct. 6, 1988, three weeks before a federal election, Daniel McGillivuddy's rival Calgary News launched a personal attack on Edwards in a two-column letter on the front page.

It called the Eye-Opener "a disposable sheet, the cushion of which has been blackened and the contents of which are slender and mean." Edwards was a "million, a 'round' idiot" and a "slut" whose literary administration cannot but create the impression that he was born in a basket and bred on a dogpile.

Further, Edwards was "a four-flusher," "a no hero" and "a wretched on-pole defecator." In future news it was promised that "I intend to show that he is a flake, a character thief, a coward, a liar, a deceiver, a dope dealer and a degenerate."

Great stuff! We love it. Edwards said for libel, got a nominal 100 bucks and McGillivuddy sold his paper and took like a rock.

Brian, chill down.

Finally, this from one Bill Sals of Don Mills, Ont.: "Sir Fred."

"Anyone who has read you for a few years knows that you are a buffoon—albeit a clever wordsmith and quite funny in scenes when you choose to lay off the easy targets and go for the really big fish like Clinton, Clemons and hundreds of the totally vulnerable egomaniacs. But Hattie?"

Bill, why don't you say "you really mean" Free up



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